THE

DELICATE EMBARRASSMENTS.

A NOVEL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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THE

DELICATE EMBARRASSMENTS.

BOOK THE FIRST.

SIR Timothy Trett, having raiſed a conſiderable fortune by indefatigable induſtry, and with an unblemiſhed reputation received the honour of knighthood in his ſheriffalty, and having married in the ſame year a ſecond wife, was no longer the ſober, induſtrious, money-getting citizen he was before, but ſtarted into an abſolutely quite new character, to the extreme aſtoniſh-

ment of all his old friends and acquaintance in the ward in which he lived.

LADY Trett was the daughter of a widow lady living near St. James's, and diſtantly related to the ducheſs of L—; upon the ſtrength of which relationſhip ſhe gave herſelf as many airs as if the nobleſt blood in the kingdom rolled in her veins. Proud of her high connections, ſhe took care to inſtill into her daughter's tender mind the moſt magnificent ideas, and to exclude all plebeian notions from it, by the enumeration of her illuſtrious anceſtors: but finding, upon the deceaſe of capt. Joyce, who lived like a man of faſhion (not to ſay like a fool), that ſhe had not a fund ſufficient for the ſupport of her favourite ſtyle of life, as ſhe had nothing to ſubſiſt upon but the intereſt ariſing from the few thouſands which were ſettled upon her at her marriage, ſhe was humble enough to wink at the conqueſt which her daughter had made over Sir Timothy at an Eaſter-

ter-ball at the Manſion-houſe; very wiſely opining, that an handſome fortune, though acquired by "filthy trade" (her own common expreſſions), would enable Charlotte to make a more ſpirited appearance than ſhe could poſſibly keep up for her, with her ſcanty income: and ſhe was the more willing to receive Sir Timothy as a ſon-in-law, as ſhe looked upon him as a man of a governable diſpoſition; and as a man whom ſhe and her daughter could manage as they pleaſed. Mrs. Joyce, indeed, was not too haſty in her conjectures concerning Sir Timothy's ductility; for he certainly was of a pliable temper, and had made a very obedient huſband to his firſt wife, whoſe death was the greateſt loſs he ever ſuſtained: for, as ſhe was a ſenſible, prudent, diſcreet woman, ſhe took no improper advantage of his docility, but always endeavoured to make him appear as reſpectable in his domeſtic, as he was in his commercial character. If Mrs.

Trett had lived, he would not, probably, have felt a propenſity, even after he was *knighted*, to render himſelf ridiculous, by adopting a new ſett of manners, and by ſtriking into a new way of life, totally different to that to which he had been accuſtomed from the day on which he was apprenticed.

Sir Timothy felt himſelf very conſequential after his knighthood, and evidently diſcovered, by the alteration in his carriage upon 'Change to his *untitled* acquaintance, how much he was raiſed in his own eſteem; holding up his head much higher than ever he did before, but frequently throwing down his eyes upon the golden ornament to his neck with a ſimpering ſatisfaction. But his transformation was not complete till he married Miſs Joyce. He then became very ſtately, indeed, to all his acquaintance; even to his old friends, whom he had never failed to meet on the club-night, at the King's-arms, unleſs he was detained from

from their company by illneſs, or ſome very extraordinary occurrence in his family.

Lady Trett ſoon made her huſband ſick of his houſe in the heart of the city; ſo that he, in a ſhort time, hired another in the moſt faſhionable quarter of the town: ſhe alſo made him give up all his mercantile connections, and inſpired him with a furious rage to enjoy the fortune which he had accumulated, like a man of ſpirit.

In conſequence of her ladyſhip's animated remonſtrances, he found his apartments crouded with the genteeleſt people, and lady Trett's routes were allowed to be as brilliant as any in London.

Sir Timothy, though he made himſelf ſo happy, by tacking himſelf to the fag-end of a nobleman's family, occaſioned not the leaſt felicity to a daughter who was grown up, and who was old enough to do the honours of his table. To *her* the introduction of a mother-in-law was

attended with no agreeable ſenſations; for ſhe had ſeen too much of Miſs Joyce, before the nuptial ceremony was performed, to expect a happy life under the ſame roof with her; and, indeed, dreaded the day which was fixed for it.

Lizzy Trett was juſt entered into her twentieth year, when her father's ſecond marriage was ſolemnized: ſhe was extremely pleaſing in her perſon, ſhe had a very good underſtanding, and ſhe was thoroughly good-natured. She had no pretenſions to beauty; but there was a ſomething reſulting from the graceful freedom of her carriage, and the agreeable expreſſion in her countenance, which firſt attracted the eyes of every body who beheld her, and then prejudiced them ſtrongly in her favour. Under the tuition of a notable mother, ſhe had received a very uſeful education. She had never been at a boarding-ſchool; but ſhe was, notwithſtanding, perfectly polite in her behaviour, and with her converſation would

would not have diſgraced the moſt elegant circle.

Mrs. Trett's ſentiments concerning female boarding-ſchools were uncommon, but not altogether unjuſt. She was of opinion, that even the moſt faſhionable ones, as they are generally conducted, are not calculated for the formation of female manners: that the young pupils in thoſe ſeminaries of modern politeneſs are apt to imbibe falſe notions of human life in general, and of conjugal life in particular: that the accompliſhments which they learn in them are too frivolous to recommend them to the attention of a man of ſenſe, without the addition of others of a ſuperior nature. —"What "are all the *agrémens* of external beha-"viour (often would ſhe ſay); what are "all the little arts to ſet the perſon off "to advantage, if the mind is not en-"riched with uſeful, as well as embel-"liſhed with ornamental knowledge!"

Lizzy, according to her expectations, led a very diſagreeable life with Lady Trett; frequently did ſhe reflect with tears on the death of a mother, under whoſe prudent directions, and from whoſe affectionate kindneſs, ſhe had not any reaſon to wiſh herſelf any where but at home. Her father too, before that unfortunate event, was ſo indulgent to her, that her inclination and her duty were never at variance.

Lady Trett having drawn Sir Timothy out of, what ſhe called, the "ſink of vulgariſm" to the "center of gentility," pretty ſoon, by the ſpirited manner in which ſhe behaved, made him heartily ſorry that he had entered into matrimonial connections with a woman of ſo pleaſurable a caſt, and of ſo expenſive a turn; and often wiſhed, in the bitterneſs of repentance, to ſhake off the yoke, which grew every day more and more galling: yet, at the ſame time, ſo infatuated was he with the ſhowy ſtyle of life,

life, into which ſhe had introduced him, that he could not help being flattered with the tinſel of it, while he ſincerely grudged the money by which it was ſupported.

LADY Trett, as ſhe had conſented to give her hand to Sir Timothy meerly for the ſake of his purſe, without having the leaſt regard for his perſon; and as ſhe had, with great accuracy, meaſured his underſtanding before ſhe had fixed him in the indiſſoluble knot; found the taſk as eaſy as it was agreeable, to regulate his motions according to her own will, only by letting him know, whenever he attempted to grumble at the *unneceſſary* articles, as he deemed them, in the bills which were laid before him, that without ſuch articles it was impoſſible to make a *genteel* appearance. An information of that kind never failed to ſilence him, and it was followed always by immediate payment.

LADY

LADY Trett received no inconſiderable aſſiſtance from her mother, in the management of her huſband. Mrs. Joyce being a woman of deep penetration, a woman who very ſoon diſcovered the blind ſides of both ſexes, was of infinite ſervice to her; and by the ſtrength of her *high connections* carried all before her whenever ſhe was called upon, when Sir Timothy was in a refractory humour, and ſhewed indubitable ſigns of a rebellious diſpoſition. — Seldom, however, was *her* aſſiſtance actually ſollicited; for Lady Trett was, in general, ſufficiently qualified to keep up her own conjugal conſequence; but ſometimes, now and then, ſhe prudently imagined, that ſo powerful an auxiliary as her mother would increaſe it.

THE ſituation of poor Lizzy, under ſuch a ſtep-mother, was truly pitiable; for Lady Trett being conſcious of her own perſonal deficiencies, looked upon her as a rival, and therefore endeavoured,

with a ſingular delight, *to keep her down*, that ſhe might not be eclipſed by her ſuperior charms: but all her efforts to hinder Lizzy from being admired were ineffectual; the attractions of that amiable girl were acknowledged, whenever ſhe appeared, by the attentions which were paid to her;—attentions which gave Lady Trett ſuch extreme diſquietude, that ſhe determined to procure the removal of an object from her eyes, ſo painful to them.—Her ladyſhip was, indeed, as unengaging in her perſon as Lizzy was otherwiſe; but ſo intolerably vain, that ſhe looked always as if ſhe really thought herſelf extremely charming, quite a killing creature, and irreſiſtibly attractive.—What a comfortable paſſion is vanity! and for how many *ſolid* pleaſures are we to that paſſion indebted!—Pleaſures too not of a fugitive nature, for they are perennial; they continue from year to year, and end not but with our lives.—Lady Trett, therefore, having,

ing, with all her ſelf-ſatisfaction, a ſtrong taſte for admiration, was cruelly hurt by the aſſiduous endeavours of almoſt all the gentlemen of her acquaintance, both married and unmarried, to render themſelves agreeable in the eyes of her daughter-in-law, who, not being elated by thoſe endeavours, behaved with an equal politeneſs to them all; rather diſcovering an indifference to, than any kind of joy in, the compliments which were addreſſed to her.

To one gentleman, however, ſhe found herſelf, in a ſhort time, under a neceſſity of departing from that equableneſs of behaviour which ſhe was deſirous of preſerving, as he was more particular in his carriage to her than the reſt, and embarraſſed her exceedingly by the perpetual efforts which he made to carry on a private converſation with her.

The gentleman by whom Lizzy was ſo much embarraſſed, was really very agreeable in his perſon, and amiable in his manners,

manners, good-natured, ſenſible and high-bred; he was alſo a baronet, and had a reſpectable eſtate: but neither his perſon, manners, temper, underſtanding, gentility, title, nor fortune, made any impreſſion upon her heart, though ſhe could not but plainly perceive that he was a man at whom three parts of her ſex would ſet their caps. Sir Thomas Delton, with all his natural and acquired charms, had the mortification to feel that he raiſed no inclination for him in the only woman whom he wiſhed to inſpire with a tender paſſion.

After having deſcribed Lizzy as ſo very averſe to a man who appears to have been ſo well qualified to conquer the inflexibility of a female heart, it will not be unneceſſary, I imagine, to account properly for that averſion to him, that her behaviour may not be thought unnatural.—The truth is, Lizzy's affections were pre-engaged,— her heart throbbed for another; a man, who figured not, indeed,

deed, in ſo faſhionable a ſtyle of life, but who was in no ſhape undeſerving of the prejudices which ſhe felt in his favour.

Miss Trett's lover was Mr. Charles Mitchell, juſt entered into partnerſhip with his maſter, Mr. Henry Plumtree, an old neighbour of Sir Timothy's, living not many doors from the houſe which he occupied before he was, unfortunately, ſeized with a contempt for the plain habitation in which he had accumulated all his riches, and, at the ſame time, with a ſupercilious diſdain for the very friends by whoſe aſſiſtance he had been enabled to amaſs them.

Mr. Charles Mitchell was the third ſon of a gentleman poſſeſſed of a ſmall eſtate in Hertfordſhire, who finding in him a ſtrong inclination to raiſe himſelf in the trading world, very wiſely encouraged it; well knowing, that he could not poſſibly leave him a fortune ſufficient to enable him to make a genteel appearance without ſupplemental advantages.

vantages.—It was from the ſame conſciouſneſs that he humoured the predominant paſſion of his ſecond ſon for the ſea, by procuring for him, as he had an active friend at the head of the Admiralty, a good birth on board a man of war.

Mr. Mitchell, having for many years been intimately acquainted with Mr. Plumtree, thought of him immediately, upon his ſon's predilection for a mercantile life; and Mr. Plumtree, as ſoon as he was conſulted on the occaſion, expreſſed an earneſt deſire to receive into his family a youth of ſo promiſing a turn, in every ſhape of ſo happy a diſpoſition. Charles, therefore, in a ſhort time after the preliminary articles were adjuſted between his father and his maſter, was introduced into the compting-houſe of the latter, and initiated into the diverſified buſineſs tranſacted in it.—By the clearneſs of his head, his indefatigable induſtry, obliging temper, and amiable manners, Charles very early became his maſter's

ter's favourite, and was, about the time when Sir Timothy diſengaged himſelf from his city-connections, taken into partnerſhip with him.

CHARLES Mitchell was not only a *good* man, according to the appropriated phraſe current upon the Royal Exchange; he was ſo in the *beſt* ſenſe of that much-abuſed monoſyllable. He was alſo a very handſome man; but his perſonal accompliſhments never rendered him vain and conceited; he had not the ſlighteſt daſh of the coxcomb in him, but was as modeſt in his carriage, as he was moral in his conduct.

MR. Plumtree had a wife and a daughter, both worthy and ſenſible people, but not remarkable enough, either for their perſonal accompliſhments or intellectual attainments, to be particularly noticed. —The latter, indeed, will be frequently mentioned in the following pages, but not either for her attainments or her accompliſhments.

THERE

THERE was alſo another young gentleman in the houſe, a Mr. Sutton, who was very different from Mr. Mitchell; but his character may be developed with more propriety hereafter.

WHILE Charles was one morning ſitting oppoſite to Mr. Plumtree at their deſk, talking over, in a tetê-à-têtê, ſome conſignments which they had received from abroad (Sutton having been ſent out with the bills which arrived by the ſame poſt), a letter was put into his hands, which operated in ſuch a manner upon his ſpirits, that he kiſſed it with rapture, and broke the ſeal with a ſatisfaction in his eyes which ſeemed to reſult from the happineſs of his heart.

MR. Plumtree, as he had always behaved to the young gentlemen committed to his care ſo as to render them willing to repoſe a confidence in him, was no ſtranger to his paſſion for Miſs Trett, and therefore naturally concluded that the letter came from her; he was, con-

ſequently, not ſurpriſed at the joyous emotions which it had occaſioned: but he was not a little aſtoniſhed to ſee an inſtantaneous tranſition from tranſport to dejection in his countenance, as ſoon as he peruſed the contents. — The letter dropped upon the deſk, when he had finiſhed the peruſal of it, and he looked as if he was in the moſt embarraſſed condition to be conceived.

Mr. Plumtree, therefore, imagining that ſomething very diſagreeable had happened in the Trett family, aſked his young friend, with a good-natured concern painted in his countenance, what had occaſioned ſo quick a change in his features.

"Oh! Sir, ſaid Mitchell, Miſs Trett "is loſt — loſt to me.—You have moſt "kindly intereſted yourſelf in all my af- "fairs; perhaps you may be able to "divert the blow which is levelled a- "gainſt my peace. ——Here is Miſs "Trett's letter.—If you will give your-

"ſelf

" ſelf the trouble to read it, you will " not wonder at the agitation of my " mind, on the receipt of it."

Mr. Plumtree, at the cloſe of that ſpeech, reached out his friendly hand acroſs the deſk, for the letter recommended to his peruſal, which contained the following unwelcome lines:

" To Mr. Charles Mitchell.

" Sir,

" MY father having, this morning, " forbidden me to receive any more vi- " ſits from you, I hope that you will " not think of coming again to a houſe, " at which you will certainly meet with " a denial, till ſome happy means are " found out to convince him of the un- " juſt alteration in his behaviour, in re- " jecting a gentleman whom he deemed " not unworthy of being allied to him. " —He ſeems, however, to be ſo fond " of a Sir Thomas Delton, who peſters

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" me with his addreſſes, that he will
" not, I am afraid, be eaſily drawn from
" his reſolution in *his* favour. Sir Tho-
" mas is not, I am very ready to allow,
" without a ſufficient ſhare of merit ;
" but I cannot help adding, that his ti-
" tle and eſtate are apparently his recom-
" mendations for a ſon-in-law.

" THIS unexpected change in Sir Ti-
" mothy's diſpoſition gives me, you may
" imagine, no ſmall uneaſineſs ; but be
" aſſured, that I will never give you
" reaſon to charge me with a breach of
" my engagements, as long as your fi-
" delity is unſhaken.

" I HAVE too high an idea of filial
" duty to fly in the face of my father
" upon this mortifying occaſion, and to
" enter into the marriage-ſtate in direct
" oppoſition to his will ; but I cannot
" bring myſelf to believe that filial duty
" obliges me to ſacrifice my peace for
" ever to the capricious inclination of a
" mercenary parent.

" LET

"LET us wait, therefore, with pati-
"ence for the arrival of happier days.
"—In the mean time, reſt ſatisfied that
"I ſhall remain,

"Unalterably, your

ELIZA TRETT."

"WELL, ſir," ſaid Charles (who had rivetted his eyes upon Mr. Plumtree, while he read the letter), when he had articulated the laſt paragraph, "have I "not reaſon to be much diſappointed at, "and not leſs diſſatisfied with, the ſtrange "turn in Sir Timothy's temper?—You "are not to be told, ſir (continued he), "what encouragement he gave to my "growing paſſion for Miſs Trett, nor "how much pleaſure he always expreſſ-"ed at the thoughts of marrying his "daughter agreeably to her inclination, "before he thought proper to engage in "a ſecond marriage."

"AY (replied Mr. Plumtree, ſhaking "his head), that new wife of his has "turned his brains topſy-turvy. I ſaw "plainly, indeed, a great alteration in "him, when he became puffed up with "the conſequence which he acquired as "Mr. Sheriff Trett; he grew more "conceited after his knighthood: but I "own I did not think that he would, at "his time of life, have been ſo terribly "taken in by a flirting young baggage, "without a ſix-pence for her fortune.— "However, I will not waſte my breath, "nor my time, in exclaiming againſt his "ridiculous conduct; I am far more in-"clined to be ſerviceable to you by en-"deavouring to make him ſenſible of the "unjuſtneſs as well as unkindneſs of his "conduct in this affair, and to bring "him back to his old way of thinking."

CHARLES thanked him in the moſt grateful terms, for ſo generouſly undertaking to reſtore him to Sir Timothy's favour; but found himſelf inſenſibly impelled

pelled to add, with a heavy ſigh, "I "wiſh, ſir, that you may be ſucceſsful "in the exertion of your friendly endea- "vours; but I am extremely afraid that "you will return from Groſvenor-ſtreet "without making the wiſhed-for im- "preſſion upon the GREAT MAN!"

CHARLES, in the midſt of his diſquietude, could not help cloſing his ſpeech with thoſe two ſignificant words, becauſe he knew that Mr. Plumtree always adopted the ſame whenever he mentioned Sir Timothy, and in a manner which fully proved that he looked upon himſelf as intrinſically a much ſuperior character.

SOON after the departure of Mr. Plumtree, Mr. Sutton came back with the bills which he had carried out for acceptance, but with ſo inflamed a countenance, and ſuch ſtriking marks of a ruffled mind, that Charles ſtared at him as if he had never ſeen his face before: he had never, indeed, ſeen him ſo diſfigured with anger, though very frequently in a

ſtate of unpleaſing diſcompoſure; for George was a young fellow with ſtrong paſſions, and of a fiery temper; very quick at conceiving himſelf to be affronted, and not at all ſlow in diſcovering his reſentment. He was, however, with that temper, good natured, and had not the leaſt malignity in his diſpoſition.

ADVANCING to the deſk at which he generally ſat, he flung down his hat upon it in a paſſionate manner, and, without ſeeming to know that there was any body in the room with him, ſwore in a ſhocking ſtyle that he would not bear ſuch uſage. — Then turning away haſtily, he walked up and down, making the moſt ſolemn aſſeverations that no man in England ſhould offer an affront to him without being called to an account for it.

CHARLES being thoroughly acquainted with his companion's impetuoſity, knew very well how to behave to him when he was in his reſentful fits, from which

which he had often recovered him, by coolly convincing him of the impropriety of his conduct. Having, therefore, in the firſt place, ſharply corrected him for the many indecent oaths which he had uttered, and made him look aſhamed of himſelf, by his animated and judicious ſtrictures againſt ſwearing; he begged to hear what had happened, while he was abroad, to throw his mind into ſuch diſorder.

"DISORDER (replied George, with "fluſhed cheeks)! the treatment I met "with was enough to diſorder a ſaint! "—I am not one of your tame people, "who can receive inſults patiently, with-"out appearing to be hurt by them.— "I am of a different make, Charles:— "I have received an inſult, and I re-"ſent it."—

"WELL, but, my dear George (ſaid "Mitchell, with a mild accent), I wiſh "you would tell me what kind of inſult "you have received, that I may know

"whether

" whether you have been with reaſon
" thus violently irritated.—You are apt
" to put wrong conſtructions upon
" words and actions, and, conſequently,
" are often hurried to draw falſe conclu-
" ſions from them.—Perhaps— "

" NONE of your *perhaps's*, Charles
" (interrupted Sutton); I ſee plainly,
" that you think I have been to blame
" upon this occaſion; and I will, there-
" fore, relate the whole truth of the af-
" fair, that you may not run away with
" a bad opinion of me.

" WHILE I was waiting at Tom's cof-
" fee-houſe for Mr. Vandermarſh, I over-
" heard a dialogue between a couple of
" beaux of the firſt form, ſeated not far
" from me, which not only engaged my
" attention deeply, but made me very
" uneaſy.—*You ſhall hear.*—They were
" talking over a joyous evening which
" they had lately ſpent at the Richmond-
" Aſſembly, and delivering very free re-
" marks upon the company which ap-

" peared

" peared there. The remarks, to which " I eagerly liſtened, afforded me, for " ſome time, I confeſs, no ſmall amuſe- " ment, becauſe I was no ſtranger to " the majority of the people whom they " mentioned; but when they grew warm " about their own partners for the night, " each ſtanding up vehemently for the " girl with whom he danced, my amuſe- " ment was ſoon over."—

" WHY ſo? — Methinks you ſhould " have been more diverted with their " ſquabbles."—

" YOU ſhall hear: — Young Fenton " was one of the beaux, and *my* Harriot " danced with *him*, all the evening."

" AND was Miſs Lawſon's dancing " with Mr. Fenton ſuch ſhocking intel- " ligence?—Muſt ſhe never dance with " any body but yourſelf?"—

" YOU ſhall hear. — To dance the " whole evening with him was particu- " lar: but, however, that alone was not " the intelligence which kindled my re-

" ſentment:

" ſentment: Fenton boaſted of civilities
" which he received from her during the
" evening; very improper ones in my
" opinion, as ſhe has encouraged me to
" believe that I am in poſſeſſion of her
" heart.—But women, I find, are all
" alike: there is no dependance upon
" them."—

" WELL, well, don't abuſe all the
" ſex; general railing is always unjuſt.
" —Go on with your ſtory."—

" You ſhall hear. —He boaſted ſo
" much about her civilities to him, that
" I could not bear the coxcomb's exul-
" tation any longer. Up, therefore, I
" roſe, and aſked him, if he had really
" received the civilities from Miſs Law-
" ſon, of which he ſo triumphantly
" boaſted.

" REALLY ſir, (replied he, with a very
" careleſs air) that is a queſtion ſo ex-
" tremely impertinent, that it does not, I
" think, deſerve an anſwer." —Then
" turning from me with a contemptuous

" look,

" look, he ſaid to his oppoſite compa-
" nion, —" I intend to have another
" flurry with my little Lawſon next aſ-
" ſembly-night, for ſhe dances deviliſh
" well."

" STUNG with the ſuperciliouſneſs of
" his whole carriage, and alarmed at his
" particular intentions, I fired in an in-
" ſtant (you know my temper), — and
" told him, rather fiercely, that he might,
" perhaps, be miſtaken.—

" No, no; (replied he, nodding his
" head, but without deigning to direct
" his eyes towards me) I believe I ſhall
" not be miſtaken: I have ſome reaſon to
" imagine that I am upon tolerable terms
" with that lady." — Terms! cried I,
" ſtarting from my ſeat, and forcing him
" to look at me, by croſſing over to the
" other ſide of the table, What terms?
" —You give yourſelf, let me tell you,
" ſir, very unbecoming liberties; and I
" deſire you not to make yourſelf ſo
" merry at Miſs Lawſon's expence.—

" WHY,

" WHY, what the devil have you to " do with her?" ſaid he, thruſting out his " long neck as far as he could, and fix- " ing his eyes full on my face. More " than you have, I fancy (ſaid I, re- " turning his ſtare); for ſhe is under an " honourable engagement to me.—

" POSSIBLY ſhe might once be ſo en- " gaged (replied he, compoſedly); but I " humbly apprehend, (added he, with " the moſt conceited countenance) that " ſhe has altered her mind."—

" HAVING thus ſpoken, he roſe with- " out the leaſt embarraſſment in his fea- " tures, and quitted the coffee-houſe " with his companion, leaving me in " the greateſt diſquiet; and I ſhall have " no reſt till I am ſatisfied about Har- " riot's behaviour to this inſolent fellow. " —I am afraid ſhe has been guilty of " indiſcretions in her behaviour to him. " —If ſhe is falſe!— I know not what " to think. — My brain is all in confu- " ſion, and I long to come at the bottom

" of

" of the affair.—If ſhe has been ſeduced
" by Fenton to prove unfaithful, I will
" have no more connections with her
" fickle ſex; but if ſhe has been ſlander-
" ed by him, he ſhall either make pro-
" per conceſſions for the intemperance of
" his tongue, or give me the ſatisfaction
" of a gentleman."

CHARLES having cloſely attended to his friend's circumſtantial account of what had paſſed at the coffee-houſe to render him ſo unhappy, endeavoured to make him eaſy about the conduct of his miſtreſs, by imputing the hints which Fenton had thrown out concerning her politeneſs to him, to the extravagance of his vanity.—
" Fenton (continued he) is allowed to
" be the moſt finiſhed coxcomb in the
" city: he is equally remarkable for his
" emptineſs and his ſelf-ſufficiency; it
" is highly probable, therefore, nay I
" will venture to aſſure you, that he has
" converted all Miſs Lawſon's general ci-
" vilities into particular attentions."

He ſaid a great deal more to leſſen the conſequence of a rival who appeared too formidable in his friend's eyes, and to encourage him to believe that Miſs Lawſon had only acted as any well-bred woman would have done upon a ſimilar occaſion, and in ſimilar circumſtances. He alſo took no ſmall pains to diſſuade him from purſuing his reſentment againſt Fenton ſo far as to demand ſatisfaction of him, even if his apprehenſions, with regard to the infidelity of his miſtreſs, ſhould appear not to have been irrationally entertained. — "Wait with pa-
"tience, added he, till to-morrow. Har-
"riot will, in all probability, come to
"town with her father and aunt, as Mr.
"Lawſon and Mr. Plumtree are, with
"other gentlemen, to have a meeting
"about Hatfield's affairs; — you may
"then be perſonally convinced either
"of her ſteadineſs or inconſtancy."

George, after having thanked Charles very ſincerely for having endeavoured

in

in ſo friendly a manner to curb the impetuoſity of his unruly paſſions, and for having given him ſuch ſalutary advice, promiſed to wait, with all the patience he was maſter of till the following day, and to check his reſentment, ſhould it be rouſed by the confirmation of his fears, by conſidering the object of it as totally beneath his notice.

CHARLES, not a little pleaſed to find him in ſo reaſonable a mood, put the letter which he had received from Miſs Trett into his hand.—"Read this, my "dear friend (ſaid he); you will ſee by it "that I am not leſs unhappy than your-"ſelf, though *my* condition is, I think, "far more pitiable than yours.—A few "hours will moſt probably diſſipate the "doubts with which you are at preſent tor-"mented; but the uneaſineſs which *I* feel is "likely to be of a long duration!"

GEORGE, when he had read Miſs Trett's letter, cried out with his uſual vivacity of expreſſion, "What ſcanda-

"lous uſage is this!—But you are hap-
"pier than I am, for all that, as you are
"aſſured of being thoroughly beloved by
"the girl of your heart.—Lizzy, with
"all her diſcretion, writes as if ſhe was
"deeply touched.—Oh! that I were but
"as well aſſured of Harriot's partiality
"in my favour.—Sir Timothy has been
"tutored, I'll lay my life, by her lady-
"ſhip, (for he is not an ill-natured man,
"with all his weakneſſes), who hates
"her daughter-in-law mortally. I am
"certain ſhe does ſo, becauſe ſhe is more
"admired wherever ſhe appears than her-
"ſelf; and has therefore ſpirited up her
"huſband to make her miſerable, by
"forcing her into the marriage ſtate
"againſt her inclination.—However, be
"not caſt down, Charles—give me your
"hand—you ſhall ever find me ready to
"give you all the aſſiſtance in my
"power."

CHARLES having thanked him for ſuch an agreeable declaration, informed him of

Mr.

Mr. Plumtree's viſit to Groſvenor-ſtreet; which intelligence was attended with ſome ſevere reflections on the tyranny of parents, and not a few pathetic ones on the tyranny of love.—They then proceeded to diſpatch the buſineſs of the day.

When Mr. Plumtree made his appearance at Sir Timothy's *hotel*, a lazy-looking fellow, in a laced livery, with his hair in papers, ſtood leaning againſt one of the pillars of the portico: his arms were careleſsly folded over his breaſt, and his legs were croſſed.

On being aſked if his maſter was at home, he ſtared brazenly in Mr. Plumtree's face, without changing his attitude or opening his lips.

Mr. Plumtree, though plain in his apparel, had ſufficiently the air of a gentleman to be treated like one by thoſe who have ſagacity enough to diſtinguiſh perſonal gentility from vulgarity: but Sir Timothy's domeſtic not having that ſagacity, or not ſuppoſing that a man without

gold or ſilver upon his cloaths could poſſibly be a gentleman, ſuffered Mr. Plumtree to repeat his queſtion before he deigned to give an anſwer, which, when delivered, was more provoking than his former ſilence—"You ſee the door is open, "and you may enquire within."

Mr. Plumtree, though as mild-tempered, as good-humoured a being as ever exiſted, felt his blood riſe at ſo ſaucy a reply, and could not help ſaying, with no ſmall aſperity of accent, "Why, you "impertinent puppy, are you not Sir "Timothy Trett's ſervant?"—

"No" (anſwered the fellow, with a half-bow, and a contemptuous extenſion of his jaws) "I have the honour to be my lady's."

"You are a very impertinent cox-"comb," ſaid Mr. Plumtree.—He ſaid no more, deeming it wiſer, on recollection, to keep his indignation down, than to degrade himſelf by giving vent to the thoughts which occurred to him upon the occaſion; but walked into the hall, and re-

renewed the queſtion, which he had already twice uttered unſucceſsfully.—The porter, to whom he addreſſed himſelf, almoſt provoked him to break through his prudential reſolves, by telling him, after having meaſured him with his eyes, that his maſter was not at home.

Mr. Plumtree having ſome reaſon, however, to believe, notwithſtanding the negative anſwer, that the knight was actually at home, and being determined to ſee the *great man*, if poſſible, overlooked the ſupercilious ſtyle of behaviour in his porter, and, by ſlipping an half-crown into his hand, drew the truth from him.

When his name had been announced ſeveral times while he aſcended a ſuperb ſtair-caſe, and was conducted through a *ſuite* of magnificent apartments, till he was almoſt ſick with the repetition of it, being a man who heartily abhorred all the pomp and parade of high-life, he was introduced into the room which Sir Ti-

mothy dignified (in his own opinion) with his preſence.

Mr. Plumtree advanced towards his old acquaintance without any timidity in his air, not being in the leaſt dazzled with the ſplendor which ſurrounded him, but with as much eaſe in his carriage as if he was in his own parlour; and when he came pretty near him, ſaid, holding out his hand, "Sir Timothy, good morn-"ing; I hope I ſee you well."—

Sir Timothy having roſe very ſtiffly from his ſeat upon the firſt appearance of Mr. Plumtree, collected all his conſequence into his face as he advanced; and when he had uttered his morning ſalutation, repreſſed his familiar approaches by cloſing his hands behind him, and deſiring him, in the moſt formal accents, to be ſeated, without adding that he was glad to ſee him, or, indeed, ſeeming to remember that they had ever "heard the "chimes at midnight" together.

He then turned his head towards Mr. Varniſh the painter, who had brought ſome curious old pictures to him, executed, he told him, by the moſt eminent hands, and juſt arrived from Italy; but, in truth, Varniſh had purchaſed them for trifling ſums at a petty ſhop in Moor-Fields, and worked upon them, with no ſmall ingenuity, to give them a foreign air and a venerable caſt.—So dexterous was he with his improving pencil, that he really touched them up in a maſterly manner, and raiſed very comfortable ſupplies for his current expences, by obtruding his copies upon thoſe would-be connoiſſeurs who have more wit than money, and more vanity than taſte, for originals. To Varniſh Sir Timothy had been recommended by an artiſt in a different walk, as a man extremely fit for his purpoſe; and he proved to be as delicious a dupe as ever *exhibited himſelf*.

Mr. Plumtree looked upon both the dupe and the deceiver (for he was not

unacquainted with the character of Varniſh) in a very contemptible light; but as he was fully determined to out-ſtay the latter, he ſat quiet in his chair, without giving any interruption to the following dialogue which was carried on between them.

It muſt be premiſed, however, in order to heighten the little dramatic ſcene, that Varniſh was tawdrily dreſſed; that he was thoroughly ſatisfied with his own perſon and parts; and that he ſurveyed Mr. Plumtree as a man whom Sir Timothy (from the manner in which he behaved to him) occaſionally employed about his money-matters in the city.

"Well, Mr. Varniſh, ſaid Sir Ti-
"mothy, I like all the pictures but this
"here black one,—it looks ſo diſmal that
"I can't bear the ſight of it:—I love
"your lightſome things beſt."—

"I am ſorry, Sir Timothy, replied
"Varniſh, that you don't admire a pic-
"ture which is vaſtly ſuperior to all the
"others

" others put together: that blackneſs
" which hurts your eye is only a proof
" of its age, Sir Timothy; it is only a
" fine rich mellowneſs which it has ac-
" quired by time.—But it is impoſſible
" to ſee the beauties of it in this part of
" the room; give me leave, Sir Timo-
" thy, to throw you into a proper atti-
" tude, in a proper place, for the exa-
" mination of its prodigious merit.—
" The beauties of it, I confeſs, Sir Ti-
" mothy, are not apparent at firſt ſight;
" but I flatter myſelf I ſhall make you
" quite charmed with it, becauſe it is
" abſolutely a *chef d'œuvre*, a maſter-piece,
" a capital performance!"—

VARNISH then taking up the picture, led Sir Timothy to ſeveral parts of the room, before he could find a ſpot proper for the occaſion; and having placed him in a particular poſition, he proceeded to expatiate upon the correctneſs of the deſign, and the warmth of the colouring; the *grouping*, the *keeping*, and the *repoſe*; the

the boldneſs of the execution in general, and the exquiſite ſtrokes of judgement in the diſpoſition of light the and ſhade.—

DUIRING the utterance of the above panegyric upon his own manual labours, it muſt not be forgotten, that he, more than once, ſtole a glance at Mr. Plumtree (who ſat gravely in his ſeat, without appearing to have the leaſt notion about pictures, though he had really an high reliſh for them, and had a very decent collection of his own) ineffably diſdainful.

"WHY, Sir Timothy, (continued he) "I might have ſold this picture, not-"withſtanding the ſmallneſs of its ſize, "for an hundred guineas to Sir Benja-"min Boulter; but as I knew that it "would appear to more advantage in "your gallery, I kept it on purpoſe for "you.—Caracci never painted a more "finiſhed little thing in his life."

"HEY! hey! (ſaid Sir Timothy) did "*Cratchi* paint it? Let me look a little "cloſer at it.—Ay, ay.—'Tis ſo.—I

"ſee

" ſee Cratchi's hand plain enough now;
" I thought I remembered his way of
" working.——Well,—I profeſs 'tis a
" beautiful piece, though its beauties
" don't appear at firſt ſight; but that's
" neither here nor there. A picture's
" never the worſe for that.——Well,
" now tell me what you muſt have for
" them in a lump.—Let me know the
" loweſt price, for I hate to haggle."

" ONLY five hundred guineas, Sir
" Timothy."—

" FIVE hundred, (replied Sir Timo-
" thy, looking ſomewhat ſurprized) for
" four pictures not much bigger than
" platters?—

" THE ſize is nothing, Sir Timothy,
" the merit of a picture only is to be
" regarded. When you conſider that they
" are the happieſt productions of Ru-
" bens, Caracci, Titian, and Tintoret,
" you will not, I dare ſay, think that
" I over-rate them.—Sir Benjamin will
" be very glad to have them, without

" think-

" thinking me at all exorbitant in my de-
" mands."

" Sir Benjamin! — No, no. — He
" ſhan't have them (ſaid Sir Timothy),
" if I give double the ſum for them. —

He then ſat down and ſigned a draught upon his banker, with which Varniſh took his leave of him, not a little pleaſed that he had ſo glorioufly gulled the knight; but he could not help wiſhing that he had been acquainted with Sir Timothy's determination to out-bid Sir Benjamin, as he certainly then would have taken care to have flattered him out of a larger ſum.

When Varniſh had left the room, Mr. Plumtree, who had performed the part of a mute ſpectator, during the *vertù* ſcene played before him, roſe up, and advancing towards the window at which his connoiſſeur-friend was re-examining the picture on which Varniſh had been ſo laviſhly liberal of his energetic encomiums, thus accoſted him: " Well, Sir
" Timothy,

"Timothy, I hope you will now favour "me with a little of your converſation, "as the buſineſs in which you were en- "gaged when I entered the room has "been adjuſted to your ſatisfaction."

Sir Timothy was ſo attached to the picture in his hands, that Mr. Plumtree's voice made not the ſlighteſt impreſſion upon his auricular organs. He ſeemed to devour it with his eyes; and cried out ſeveral times in a triumplant tone, "Charming Cratchi!"

Mr. Plumtree, however, regardleſs of his virtuoſo-tranſports, preſumed to repeat his requeſt rather in a louder key, which rouſed him from his *unpittoreſque* attitude.—Few men were more clumſily built than Sir Timothy, and he had made but a poor proficiency under the tuition of *Gallini*, from whom, at the particular deſire of Lady Trett, who could not bear the aukwardneſſes of his deportment (eſpecially on her rout nights) he frequently received inſtructions, for the

the genteel carriage of his perſon; to no purpoſe: for Sir Timothy was unluckily too far advanced in life to do any honour to his polite preceptor. — But, to the point.

The repetition of Mr. Plumtree's requeſt having rouſed Sir Timothy, he threw back his head, which had been hanging over his pictures, and ſtaring at him as if he had never ſeen him before, ſaid "Oh, Mr. — What's your "name? —a—a— Mr. Plumtree, I "quite and clean forgot that you was "here.—Don't you think that this is a "prodigious fine picture, and dog-"cheap?"

Mr. Plumtree, not chuſing to loſe his time by entering into the merits of the picture, or to make Sir Timothy loſe his patience, by telling him what he thought with regard to the purchaſe of it, begged to be excuſed from giving his opinion about it, as he had ſome buſineſs with him of another nature, which required

quired diſpatch; being obliged to meet a party of his friends who were to dine at his houſe.

Sir Timothy was very loth to lay down his *Caracci*; but recollecting that it was his dancing-day, and that *Gallini*'s hour was almoſt arrived, he, with a ſhuffling kind of civility, deſired Mr. Plumtree to be quick in the communication of what he wanted to ſay to him.

Mr. Plumtree, being very much inclined to make diſpatch, opened the buſineſs which had brought him into Sir Timothy's preſence, in the following manner:

"I am not one of your fawning, flat-
"tering fellows, Sir Timothy: I am the
"ſame plain, blunt, man you ever knew,
"and ſhall therefore not ſcruple to tell
"you freely, that you have not behaved
"like a man of honour to a young gen-
"tleman, for whom I have a particular
"eſteem."

Sir

Sir Timothy ſtarted, ſtared, and looked as if he did not know whether he ſhould reſent the familiarity and freedom of his old neighbour's addreſs to him. He was attacked in a very tender part: his conſequence was affronted: he was piqued; but as he knew that Mr. Plumtree did not in the leaſt reſpect him, merely for the title with which the king had honoured him, or for the ſhowy ſtyle of life in which he figured, he deemed it more prudent not to appear hurt by the blunt behaviour of a man by whoſe preſence he was at the ſame time embarraſſed and over-awed;—not being ſo much intoxicated with the fumes of adulation which he perpetually received from thoſe who had deſigns upon his pocket, eſpecially from thoſe who enriched themſelves by his paſſion for *vertù*, as not to be conſcious of his own intrinſic littleneſs, amidſt all his external grandeur, before ſo reſpectable a character as Mr. Plumtree was univerſally allowed to

be. With a great deal of that kind of ceremony, therefore, which is extremely nauſeous to any body who is thoroughly acquainted with the meaning of that very much miſunderſtood compound word Good-breeding, he begged him to ſpeak more to the purpoſe.—"I can't tell "what you have got in your head, Mr. "Plumtree, to talk to me in this way "(continued he): I ſhould be glad if "you would explain yourſelf."

"You are no ſtranger, I ſuppoſe, "Sir Timothy, to my partner, Mr. "Mitchell (ſaid Mr. Plumtree, drily)?"

"I know very well (replied Sir Ti-"mothy), that Mr. Mitchell is your "partner; but that does not *ſignify*; what "is he to me, I pray?"

"There was a time, Sir Timothy "(ſaid Mr. Plumtree), when you did not "ſpeak of him ſo ſlightly.—— You "have not forgot, I preſume, that you "formerly encouraged the addreſſes "which he made to your daughter,

" when you found that they were " attached to each other.——You did " not till lately think him unworthy of " Miſs Trett. What then has altered " your mind concerning him? He is, " I can aſſure you, more deſerving of " your eſteem than any young man I am " at preſent acquainted with; and I " ſhould be glad to hear your objections " to him for a ſon-in-law, becauſe I " flatter myſelf that I ſhall be able to " remove them."

Sir Timothy, not being able to plead ignorance any longer with regard to the drift of Mr. Plumtree's diſcourſe, and equally unable to exculpate himſelf with a good grace from the charge againſt his caprice couched in his laſt ſpeech, endeavoured to call up all his conſequence in his face, and to evade a direct anſwer, by pretending to be in a hurry to go to Lord Tinſel.——" Mr. Plumtree, " Sir, I proteſt you muſt excuſe me—I " am poſitively engaged."—

" I HOPE,

"I HOPE, Sir Timothy, that a few "moments will not occaſion any mate-"rial interruption to your engagement. "— I am not at all deſirous of being "thought an intruder. I only beg the "favour of you to tell me frankly and "honeſtly; for as I love plain-dealing "myſelf, I wiſh to meet with it in thoſe "with whom I have any matters to tranſ-"act; what has made you reſolve to "marry Miſs Trett to a man whom ſhe "does not like, after having given her "the greateſt room to imagine, that "ſhe ſhould be rendered happy in the "marriage-ſtate with the man of her "choice?"

SIR Timothy, conſcious of having actually no engagement abroad; on the contrary, being conſcious of having an engagement at home, and apprehenſive, every moment, of ſeeing Gallini enter the room, whoſe preſence would, he imagined, falſify the flimſy excuſe which he had made in order to get rid of Mr. Plum-

tree, as if Mr. Gallini's profeſſion was printed in his countenance; was in as fine a fuſs as a lady, extravagantly fond of porcelain ornaments, would be, if an unlucky monkey ſhould demoliſh half the decorations of her dreſſing-room by his unſeaſonable gambols.

In ſuch a fidgetting ſituation did Sir Timothy feel himſelf. No mortal was ever more ridiculouſly diſconcerted. Aſhamed to confeſs that he had no rational objection to the man on whom his daughter had placed her affections; afraid to expoſe his weakneſs to an old friend, whoſe ſuperiority, in point of underſtanding, he dreaded; he ſat wriggling in his chair moſt whimſically diſtreſſed, now throwing his legs over his knees alternately; now ſtroking his chin, and rubbing his forehead; ſometimes elevating his eyes to the cieling, ſometimes fixing them upon the chimney, ſometimes directing them towards the windows,

dows, and ſometimes taking in the whole room at a glance.

Mr. Plumtree, not being acquainted with the train of ideas, if ideas they might be called, moving in Sir Timothy's mind, could not poſſibly tell to what cauſe to aſcribe the oddneſs of his behaviour. —Little did he imagine that a few plain queſtions, for the anſwering of which no depth of parts was requiſite, would have produced ſuch an *embarras* in his deportment.

He was almoſt himſelf at *a fault* by it. Being reſolved, however, as the morning advanced faſt, to puſh the queſtion again in the moſt poſitive manner, he preſſed him to declare, without any heſitation, whether he would permit George Mitchell to renew his addreſſes to Miſs Trett?

Mr. Plumtree having repeated his queſtion in a firm tone, while he looked ſteadily at Sir Timothy, as if he would dive into his ſoul; vanity, at laſt, animated the dignified ſimpleton to declare,

that if Mr. Mitchell had a title he ſhould not think that his daughter demeaned herſelf by becoming his wife.

Mr. Plumtree, though he could hardly help ſmiling at the immenſe folly of his late neighbour, was, at the ſame time, prevented from diſcovering the ſmalleſt traces of riſibility by compaſſionable ſenſations.—He beheld him with contempt, but he beheld him alſo with pity. With undiſturbed features, therefore, he undertook, by dint of calm reaſoning, to convince him, that he did not diſcover a true regard for the happineſs of his daughter, with all his pretenſions to paternal affection, by the diſcloſure of the motive which had prompted him to reject Mr. Mitchell.

"You own, Sir Timothy (continued he), that if Mr. Mitchell had a "title, you would not deem him a diſ"grace to your family:—but give me "leave to tell you, that he could not "be more deſerving of Miſs Trett, if

"he

" he was a duke. Titles, Sir Timothy, " are not ſo abſolutely neceſſary for the " promotion of human happineſs, as you " perhaps imagine them to be."

Sir Timothy could not well digeſt the laſt ſtricture of Mr. Plumtree's upon titles. He had ſagacity enough to perceive, that he himſelf was ſtrongly pointed at; but he had not addreſs enough to turn the edge, by not ſeeming to feel the ſharpneſs of it.—He was hurt; but he gave his antagoniſt a greater advantage over him, by the awkwardneſs of his movements upon the occaſion.

Holding up himſelf very erect in his chair, and clapping his hands to his ſides, he, with a face full of the moſt exquiſite ſelf-conceit, replied, " Titles are pretty " things, *Miſter* Plumtree (laying no " ſmall ſtreſs upon the word *Miſter*), " though you ſet ſo little value upon " them;—very pretty things. They " make a man look like ſomebody, and " get him, ſome-how, a prodigious deal

" more reſpect than if he was only " plain Henry or Charles."

Mr. Plumtree, though he knew that Sir Timothy, with his *Henry* and his *Charles*, intended to be " deſperately witty" upon himſelf and his partner, had too much good ſenſe to be irritated by ſo puerile a mark of his reſentment: he took no notice of it; he only with redoubled gravity ſaid, " The man who " fills his ſtation in life in a becoming " manner (whatever his ſtation is), will " always be reſpected.—But my time, " Sir Timothy, added he, is of too " much conſequence to be ſpent upon " the diſcuſſion of a ſubject of this na- " ture, on which our opinions will, I " doubt, never coincide, were we to talk " upon it till dooms-day. In a few words, " therefore, let me intreat you to tell " me poſitively, for I don't love to be " trifled with (pronouncing *trifled with* " emphatically), whether you are deter- " mined to make your daughter a mi-

" ſerable

" ſerable woman for life, for the ſake " of an empty ſound."

HARDLY had Mr. Plumtree cloſed his laſt ſpeech, when he received a mortification not eaſily to be deſcribed, by the entrance of a ſervant to announce the arrival of Mr. Gallini, who ſoon afterwards made his entry; and who by his appearance gave quite a new air to Sir Timothy's countenance, as he began to be embarraſſed by his adverſary's home requeſt, the ſtyle of which at once intimidated and perplexed him. To ſuch a man ſo ſituated even a dancing-maſter is a deſirable object.

MR. Plumtree finding that he could not poſſibly hope for a continuation of a *tête-à-tête* with Sir. Timothy, when a viſitor of ſo much importance was admitted to him, took his leave, and returned to the city, very much vexed at the expedition of the morning, but not without reſolving, in ſpite of his diſappoint-

pointment, to renew his attacks in Groſvenor-ſtreet.

WHILE Mr. Plumtree had been paying his viſit to the above-mentioned genteel part of the town, a ſcene paſſed at his own houſe, of which a particular deſcription cannot, I imagine, be deemed unneceſſary, as a principal perſon in this hiſtory had a capital ſhare in it.—

MISS Plumtree was as well-meaning a girl as ever lived; but ſhe was a plain figure, and had only a moderate underſtanding: neither had ſhe either external or internal accompliſhments to ſet off her perſon or her converſation to advantage. —She was, however, as ſuſceptible of the *belle paſſion* as the brighteſt *beauty*, or the moſt ſparkling *wit* of her own ſex; and had for a long time been in the ſituation of Viola in the Twelfth Night of Shakeſpear, who "never told her love." A tender melancholy, by preying upon her ſpirits, had thrown a ſicklineſs over

her whole countenance; which became at laſt ſo conſpicuous, that it alarmed her affectionate parents, and it puzzled them too; for as ſhe complained of no corporeal diſorder, and concealed her mental indiſpoſition, they were quite at a loſs to diſcover the cauſe of the ſtriking change which they obſerved in her looks.

Soon after Mr. Plumtree left the houſe in order to pay the viſit already deſcribed, while Mrs. Plumtree and her daughter were ſitting at work together in the parlour, the tears on a ſudden guſhed from the eyes of the latter, ſo that ſhe was obliged to lay down her ruffle, and to have recourſe to her handkerchief.

Mrs. Plumtree, with all the affection of a fond parent, had frequently endeavoured to make her Maria communicate the grief which had robbed her of her tranquillity, and which had diffuſed ſuch a gloom over her features, that ſhe might find ſome means to remove them; but her endeavours had hitherto proved ineffectual:

tual: ſhe now, however, could not perceive ſo conſiderable addition to her daughter's diſquietude without repeating her ſolicitations, without deſiring her in the moſt preſſing and pathetic manner to inform her of the ſources of her ſorrows. —"I cannot bear (continued the good "mother) to ſee you thus, to all ap- "pearance, more than ever afflicted, and "not know why you are ſo.—Some- "thing of a very extraordinary nature "has certainly lain upon your mind for "a great while; and you will not pay "a proper regard either to mine or your "father's intreaties, nor conſult your "own peace, if you ſtill perſiſt in re- "fuſing to declare what has occaſioned "ſo deplorable an alteration in you.— "Come, my dear Maria (added ſhe, "taking hold of one of her hands— "the other was employed in wiping "away her tears) let me prevail on "you to unboſom yourſelf to me with "the utmoſt unreſerve: you may ſafely

"diſcloſe

" diſcloſe all the ſecrets of your heart to " me; for you may be aſſured, that I " ſhall not make a wrong uſe of them. " I love you, my dear, too well, to turn " any of your free communications " to me to your diſadvantage."

MARIA, melted by the affectionate concern which her amiable mother expreſſed at her melancholy appearance, and by the anxious ſolicitude with which ſhe wiſhed to be informed of the concealed cauſe of it, felt ſuch a flow of filial gratitude, that ſhe could not for ſome moments articulate her acknowledgments to her for her truly maternal behaviour. When ſhe repoſſeſſed the powers of utterance, ſhe firſt wept over her neck, and then, after a dutiful embrace, ſaid, " Oh! madam, I have no " reaſon to complain of your kindneſs to " me: by you and by my dear father I " have ever been treated with the ten- " dereſt indulgence; and I am aſhamed " to confeſs myſelf unhappy, notwith-

" ſtanding

" ſtanding your mutual endeavours to " render me otherwiſe: but I ſhall be " ſtill more aſhamed to confeſs to what " my unhappineſs is owing."

HERE ſhe ſtopped: her ſobs came ſo quick that they would not permit her to proceed.

MRS. Plumtree, pitying her daughter's agitated ſituation, and wiſhing more than ever to be acquainted with the cauſe of it, repeated her requeſts with ſuch an anxious earneſtneſs, ſuch a fond importunity, that Maria at laſt, after having made ſeveral attempts, murmured out, while her face was covered with bluſhes, " A weakneſs, Madam, for which I ſe- " verely condemn myſelf, is the cauſe of " the uneaſineſs which I have long en- " dured, and which ſtill heavily oppreſſes " me."

" WHAT weakneſs, my dear child? " (ſaid her mother, eagerly ſtraining her " to her boſom, and kiſſing away the tears " as they fell from her overflowing eyes)

" Come,

" Come, Maria, open your full heart—
" you ſhall find in me a friend as well
" as a parent."—

RAISING up her head ſlowly, and looking with an almoſt dying languor at her mother, ſhe faintly ſaid, " Is it not a " weakneſs, Madam, to fix one's affec- " tions on a man who beholds one with " indifference; whoſe aſſiduities are all " paid to another?" and then hid her face, as if ſhe was ſhocked at the confeſſion which ſhe had uttered, and longed to recall it.—Her ſighs were redoubled, and her tears ſtreamed with an additional rapidity down her pallid cheeks.

THE END OF THE FIRST BOOK.

BOOK THE SECOND.

MRS. Plumtree though an exceedingly worthy woman, was not remarkable for her penetration; few women, indeed, had leſs: with the ſagacity, however, which nature had beſtowed upon her, ſhe for ſome days before the above-mentioned confeſſion ſuſpected her daughter, from certain particularities in her carriage, of being in love, and was therefore not ſurpriſed at the confirmation of her ſuſpicions. She was not ſurpriſed at what ſhe *had* heard, but ſhe was almoſt afraid to queſtion concerning the object of her partiality, leſt ſhe ſhould hear the name either of Mitchell or Sutton; having pretty ſtrong reaſons for believing that they were both too firmly attached to their reſpective favourites

vourites to relinquiſh them for her!—But as ſhe had proceeded ſo far, curioſity inſenſibly impelled her to purſue the interrogating ſtrain: maternal affection too prompted her powerfully to demand a ſequel to ſo important a diſcovery, that ſhe might, if poſſible, turn it to her daughter's advantage.

ANIMATED by ſo natural an impulſe, and ſo laudable a motive, ſhe then urged her in a manner which at once forcibly expreſſed the anxiety of her mind, and evidently indicated the goodneſs of her heart, to make a more explicit diſcloſure of the tender griefs which corroded her gentle boſom.—"You have very much "alarmed me, my dear Maria, (con-"tinued Mrs. Plumtree) by what you "have already ſaid, becauſe I cannot "help being apprehenſive that you are "prejudiced in favour of ſomebody, who "is both from honour and inclination "engaged to another, and conſequently "cannot be thought of without diſa-

" greeable reflections.—But, perhaps, I " am full of unneceſſary fears; I ſin- " cerely wiſh that I at this time may be " ſo, for your ſake, as I long to ſee you " well and happy."

MARIA preſſed her mother's hand, and having lifted up her weeping eyes to heaven, in which ſupplication was ſtrongly marked, ſhe with a deep-fetched ſigh cried, " I fear, madam, that I am not de- " ſtined to be either *well* or happy in " this world."

HAVING pronounced thoſe few words with a pathetic energy, ſhe hung down her head, ſupporting it with her elbows, which reſted upon her knees, and ſat in that poſture, like an unfortunate being in the moſt melancholy ſtate of lunacy, as if ſhe was glued to her chair; nor could her mother, either by ſpeaking to her, or by ſhaking her, produce an alteration in her attitude, or extort a ſingle ſyllable from her livid lips.

MRS.

Mrs. Plumtree was now more than ever concerned for her daughter's diſtreſſful ſituation, having no doubts remaining with regard to the infelicity of her attachment: yet was ſhe very deſirous to know whether Mitchell or Sutton had made ſo indelible an impreſſion upon her heart; becauſe, amidſt all her diſcouraging ideas, a few flattering ones ſprung up which ſpurred her to hope, that if the former ſhould prove to be the man who had made the ſuſpected impreſſion, ſhe might not be driven abſolutely to deſpair, as Mr. Plumtree had, before he went to Groſvenor-ſtreet, acquainted her with his errand thither.—Being ſtrongly inclined to imagine that Sir Timothy would not be diverted from the dazzling alliance with Sir Thomas Delton, by any thing which her well-meaning huſband could poſſibly advance in behalf of his worthy aſſociate, ſhe wiſhed to hear that Mitchell was the perſon who had, innocently, deſtroyed Maria's peace.

PUSHED on by that wiſh, and a very eager deſire to be relieved from a ſtate of ſuſpence the moſt perplexing, at that critical juncture, in which ſhe had ever found herſelf, ſhe redoubled her efforts to rouze Maria from the lethargy into which ſhe was plunged: but before they were ſucceſsful, Mr. Plumtree returned, and by his return prevented her from acquiring the intelligence about which ſhe had been ſo ſollicitous.

HAPPY as Mrs. Plumtree ever was in her huſband's company, ſhe would have been juſt at that time better pleaſed if he had ſtaid longer abroad; well-knowing that Maria, who ſtarted when her father entered the room, would not be more communicative to him than he had been to her, eſpecially upon ſo delicate an occaſion; as ſhe on all occaſions regarded him in ſo reverential light, that ſhe could never bring herſelf to open her heart freely to him, as ſhe always, till now, had to her mother.—Mrs. Plumtree, pitying Maria's

ria's embarraſſment too much to make any addition to it, by acquainting her huſband with what had already tranſpired from her lips, very prudently attributed the ſurprize which ſhe had diſcovered to the ſudden agitation of her ſpirits, upon the firing of a gun by one of the militia-men; and by ſo doing, gave her time to recover herſelf a little.—Her apology was not invented merely for the moment; the trained-bands were called forth that day.

Mr. Plumtree, not in the leaſt wondering that his daughter in her dejected ſtate ſhould have been ſo ſtartled, as he himſelf had been often affected in the ſame manner, when he was writing in his compting-houſe, or turning ſhort into a ſtreet, at the corner of which one of the abovementioned military geniuſes was trying his muſquet, went up to her with a pleaſed countenance; and having endeavoured to make her ſmile, by carrying her to the window and pointing out to her obſervation the perſon who had fluttered her,

related to Mrs. Plumtree very circumſtantially what had paſſed between him and Sir Timothy.

Mrs. Plumtree, while her huſband was engaged in his minute narration, examined her daughter's features more attentively than ſhe had ever examined them before, in order to *read* in her looks the ſequel to the verbal half diſcovery which ſhe had made, relative to her tender paſſion; and ſhe was very ſoon convinced that Mitchell was the (undeſigning) diſturber of her peace; for whenever Mr. Plumtree mentioned *his* name, ſhe changed colour, and appeared in the utmoſt confuſion.—Towards the end of the narration, however, on hearing that Sir Timothy objected to Mr. Mitchell, becauſe he was not dignified with a title, ſhe brightened up; but at the concluſion of it, ſhe relapſed into her former melancholy appearance, and ſeemed to be buried in thought.

Mr. Plumtree having finiſhed his account of the viſit which he had made to

Groſ-

Groſvenor-ſtreet, told his wife, that tho' he had not ſucceeded according to his wiſhes, he ſhould make another attempt, ſhortly, to bring the knight to hear reaſon.—He then called to know if Mr. Mitchell was returned (having been informed when he enquired after him, that he was not at home); and receiving an affirmative anſwer, left Mrs. Plumtree and his daughter to their own converſation.

When her huſband had quitted the room, Mrs. Plumtree, with all the good-nature of a benevolent woman, and the genuine affection of a fond mother, addreſſed herſelf to Maria in the following manner:

"You need not now, my dear child, "increaſe the uneaſineſs which you have "long felt, by concealing the cauſe of it; "for I am perfectly convinced from your "whole behaviour, while your father "related the reception which he met with "at Sir Timothy's, and the converſation

" which paſſed between them, that Mr. " Mitchell is the man (I thought ei- " ther he or Mr. Sutton was the perſon) " who engroſſes all your attention.—You " have no reaſon to be aſhamed, Maria, " of your choice, for he is every way de- " ſerving both of your eſteem and love; " and Mr. Plumtree will, I dare ſay, ap- " prove of it, though his regard for the " happineſs of Mr. Mitchell prompts " him to forward it by reſtoring him to " Sir Timothy's favour. But if Sir Ti- " mothy ſhould abſolutely refuſe him for " a ſon-in-law, and oblige Miſs Trett " to marry Sir Thomas Delton, he " will then be free to chuſe another; and " may, perhaps, when he finds how " ſeverely you have been afflicted for his " ſake, look upon you with other eyes " than he has hitherto done, and feel " ſomething more than compaſſion for " your ſufferings on his account."

MARIA was not ſorry that her mother had diſcovered the ſecret which had ſo long

long remained buried in her breaſt, by her behaviour, for ſhe knew not how to prevail on herſelf to diſcloſe it with her lips: but though ſhe felt ſome flattering hopes from the reſiſtance which Sir Timothy had made to her father's friendly offices in Mr. Mitchell's behalf, ſhe could not help being ſhocked at the thoughts of *his* being made acquainted with her ſenſations in his favour; and therefore ſaid haſtily, "You will not ſurely, ma-
"dam, let Mr. Mitchell know how
"fooliſhly I am affected by his attach-
"ment to Miſs Trett; there will be an
"indelicacy in ſuch a proceeding, which
"I cannot reflect upon without bluſhes:
"pray, madam, don't make me appear in
"ſo contemptible a light."

"You need not be afraid, my dear,
"(replied her mother) of appearing in
"ſuch a light to Mr. Mitchell; in a
"compaſſionable one, perhaps, you
"may."

She could add no more, as her houſe-keeper wanted to conſult her about certain culinary matters, company being expected to dinner, for the better diſcuſſion of which matters ſhe found it more expedient to quit the room than to remain in it.—With Truman, therefore, ſhe retired to another apartment, that Mr. Plumtree might not, on his return to the parlour, be worried with a ſort of converſation which he never deſired to hear.

Miss Plumtree, having juſt ſtaid to finiſh a flower upon her apron, went up to her own dreſſing-room, in order to ſettle her appearance for the reſt of the day.

During the abovementioned ſcenes in the parlour, Mr. Plumtree acquainted Mr. Mitchell with what had paſſed between him and Sir Timothy; repeating almoſt *verbatim* what he had narrated to his wife.

Mr Mitchell thanked him ſeveral times, when he had cloſed the relation of

his visit, for the trouble which he had taken on his account; but could not help telling him, that the reception which he had met with gave him no encouragement to expect a better in a second attempt. "I am, however, Sir, (con-
"tinued he) under great obligations to
"you, for having acted so friendly a
"part, and for intending to persevere
"in your friendliness.—You will, it is
"most probable, notwithstanding all your
"kind efforts in my favour, be unable to
"make me as happy as I wish to be;
"but you shall never find me ungrateful.
"—I am afraid to flatter myself with
"hopes."

"Come, come, Charles, (interrupted
"Mr. Plumtree) don't be cast down:
"a lucky card may turn up when you
"little think of it. I am not one of
"those people who are inclined to give
"things up in a fit of despair. I will
"do all I can to lend you a lift upon this
"occasion; but you must also contrive

"by

" by ſome methods to bring about a " change in Sir Timothy's diſpoſition, " in caſe I ſhould prove an inſufficient " advocate for you."

CHARLES aſſured his worthy partner and active friend, that he ſhould be glad to follow his advice in every ſhape; and that, in the midſt of his infelicity, he thought himſelf very fortunate in receiving ſo many ſtriking proofs of his friendſhip and regard.—He would have, perhaps, added much more upon a ſubject in which he was ſo deeply intereſted; but a meſſage from Mrs. Plumtree, intreating her huſband's company in the parlour, put an end to the compting-houſe converſation. Mrs. Plumtree having diſpatched the buſineſs about which Truman had conſulted her, returned to her needlework; and finding the room empty, embraced that opportunity to ſend for Mr. Plumtree, in order to communicate to him the diſcovery which ſhe had made before his arrival, and to concert meaſures

for

for their daughter's recovery, for the re-eſtabliſhment of her health, and for the reſtoration of her peace of mind.

MR. Plumtree, rightly imagining from the earneſtneſs with which the meſſage was delivered, for he was intreated *to come immediately*, that ſomething of importance was upon the carpet, obeyed the preſſing ſummons without delay.

MRS. Plumtree having deſired her huſband to ſhut the door, unboſomed herſelf in the following manner:

"I HAVE a great deal to ſay to you, "my dear, about an extraordinary affair. "—You may well look grave, but you "will be more ſerious, I fancy, when I "have told it.—Poor Maria, you know, "has been for a long time in a moping, "melancholy way, and nobody in the "houſe could tell what ailed her.—The "girl has gone about as if ſhe had one "foot in the grave, and appeared more "like a dead corpſe than a living crea-"ture.—Now, this morning I luckily

"found

" found out the cauſe of the miſerable " alteration in her:—I cannot ſay luckily " altogether, upon ſecond thoughts, be- " cauſe I am very much afraid, that we " ſhall not eaſily hit upon a method to " make her as well and as chearful as " ſhe uſed to be."

Mr. Plumtree, wearied with a preamble ſo full of circumlocution, becauſe impatient to be informed of the promiſed diſcovery, could not help gently rebuking her for her prolixity, which never had been ſo ill-timed, by ſaying, with a little peeviſhneſs of accent, " Well, well, my " dear, I wiſh you would leave off your " round-about way of expreſſing your- " ſelf, and come to the point at once."

" I will, (replied ſhe) I will, directly;" and thus proceeded:—

" It is impoſſible to ſay what pains I " took to bring Maria to open her heart " to me.—Poor thing! ſhe was vaſtly " loth to tell even *me* her own mother, " who am ſo fond of her, and who would

" do

" do every thing in my power to make " her happy.—She ſighed and cried at " ſuch a rate, that, I profeſs, I pitied her " from the bottom of my ſoul.—At " laſt, when I had almoſt deſpaired of " fiſhing the ſecret out of her, which I " wanted to get at, ſhe gave me to un- " derſtand, but not in plain words, that " ſhe was in love."

" In love !" ſaid Mr. Plumtree, with a tone expreſſive of no ſmall ſurpriſe.

" Yes, my dear, and in love with ſome- " body who was otherwiſe engaged. Now " it immediately ſtruck into my head, " that either Mitchell or Sutton was the " man to whom ſhe had taken a fancy, " and I longed to know whether I was " right in my conjectures; but before " my curioſity could be gratified you came " in. However, by obſerving Maria's " looks narrowly, while you was relating " what paſſed at Sir Timothy's, I am " certain that Mitchell is the perſon who " has gained a conqueſt over her heart;

" and

" and alſo that from Sir Timothy's be-
" haviour to you, ſhe feeds herſelf with
" hopes.—And if Miſs Trett ſhould be
" forced to marry Sir Thomas Delton,
" perhaps Charles may turn his atten-
" tion to our daughter, eſpecially when
" he hears that ſhe is in ſo wretched a
" ſituation on his account."

Mr. Plumtree, after having liſtened very attentively to his wife's account of his daughter's unhappy ſituation, to her conjectures concerning the cauſe of it, and to the ſurmiſe at the concluſion of her ſpeech, remained for ſome moments in a ruminating attitude, and then replied; " You have, my dear, I believe verily
" hit upon the cauſe of Maria's declining
" health, and drooping appearance; but,
" I profeſs, I did not think that a love-
" fit had made ſuch a deplorable change
" in her.——The diſcovery, however,
" which you have made of her ſecret
" thoughts, gives me no ſmall uneaſineſs;
" becauſe, as Mitchell is firmly attached

" to

to Miſs Trett, our poor girl muſt, I am afraid, remain in an hopeleſs condition.

"I DON'T know that, (replied Mrs. "Plumtree briſkly) I don't know that. "—If Charles is entirely rejected by "Sir Timothy, and finds Maria dying "for him, he will, perhaps, feel com- "paſſion for her, and then he will ſoon "come to love her; for ſhe is a good "creature, and will, I dare ſay, make "an impreſſion upon his heart, if it is "not as hard as a piece of rock-work.— "As things are ſo, Mr. Plumtree, (con- "tinued ſhe) I hope you won't think of "dangling after Sir Timothy again, in "order to perſuade him to make Charles "his ſon-in-law. You ſhould rather "ſeize the firſt opportunity to let Charles "know how much your daughter ſuf- "fers for his ſake."

MR. Plumtree being told that a gentleman wanted to ſpeak with him, was prevented from ſaying all that he would, perhaps, have ſaid, had he not been interrupted:

terrupted: he, therefore, only promiſed to conſider about what ſhe had requeſted him to do, with which promiſe ſhe declared herſelf very well ſatisfied; adding, that ſhe would go up to her daughter, and deſire her not to give way to deſpair.

As the gentleman who had interrupted Mr. Plumtree, detained him till the company whom he had invited to dinner made their appearance, he had no time to digeſt the intelligence which he had received concerning his Maria, ſo as to form a plan for the regulation of his conduct upon an occaſion, which would require, he plainly perceived, a very nice deportment.

Mrs. Plumtree having, agreeably to her laſt words when ſhe quitted the parlour, endeavoured to raiſe Maria's ſpirits, by prognoſticating agreeable conſequences from the next private interview between her huſband and his partner, drew a heavy ſigh from her daughter's tender

boſom,

boſom, which was accompanied by the following ſhort ſpeech, delivered with a plaintive voice:

"You are too ſanguine in your ex-
"pectations, I am afraid, madam.—
"Were I aſſured that Miſs Trett was
"actually married to Sir Thomas, I
"ſhould not dare to flatter myſelf with
"the hopes of attracting the attention of
"Mr. Mitchell in the manner I wiſh to
"engage it."

"Poo—poo, (replied Mrs. Plumtree)
"don't indulge ſuch diſmal thoughts;
"much ſtranger things come to paſs
"every day."

She then went on in her uſual flow of language to inſpire Maria with a train of chearful ideas; but in the midſt of her conſolatory converſation ſhe was called down to receive her friends: before ſhe left the chamber, however, ſhe repeatedly deſired her daughter to brighten up, and not to appear at table as if ſhe was ſitting at a funeral.

MARIA, in return, told her mother, that ſhe found herſelf too much indiſpoſed to appear there in another light, and therefore begged to remain in her apartment.

MRS. Plumtree, conſidering, on a little recollection, that her being unable to leave her apartment, might, poſſibly, tend to facilitate the deſigns which ſhe and Mr. Plumtree were ſcheming in her favour, only ſaid, "Well, well, Maria, if you "can't come down, you can't, and "there's an end of the matter; but you "ſhan't be forgot."

WHEN her mother had cloſed the chamber-door after her, Maria could not help reflecting deeply on the diſcovery of her ſenſations, occaſioned by the indifference of the *particular* man whom ſhe had fingled out from among his ſex for the completion of her felicity; on the attachment of *that* man to one whom ſhe had formerly viſited upon the moſt friendly footing, before a proud and fantaſtic woman

woman ſpirited up her father to drop all his city-acquaintance; and on the arguments which her mother adopted, with the beſt intentions in the world, to induce her to believe that Sir Timothy's ſtrong predilection in favour of Sir Thomas Delton, would moſt probably be attended with conſequences in hers.

WHILE Miſs Plumtree was extracting ſome little comfort from the above-mentioned predilection of Sir Timothy's, Miſs Trett was in a not more enviable condition, being very ſeverely diſtreſſed by the conflict raiſed in her gentle boſom by two thwarting paſſions, love and duty, which by the contrariety of their directions made in that boſom a diſturbance to be conceived properly by thoſe only, who have felt a conteſt of a ſimilar kind, and not eaſily even by thoſe to be deſcribed.

SIR Timothy, when he had been the uſual time under the *improving* hands of *Gallini*; during which he made almoſt as

many falſe ſteps as if he had taken his firſt leſſon, ſo much had Mr. Plumtree's viſit ruffled his temper; ſummoned Lizzy to attend him in his cloſet: and as ſoon as ſhe dutifully deſired to know why ſhe had received ſo hurrying a meſſage from him, he with equal brevity of expreſſion and ſharpneſs of accent, ſaid, "Will you be married to Sir Thomas "Delton or no?"

THAT queſtion, for which ſhe was totally unprepared, and which was delivered with the utmoſt abruptneſs, threw all her ideas into diſorder, and chained up her tongue: had ſhe been able to have framed an anſwer, ſhe could not have uttered it: ſhe looked as much confuſed as if ſhe had been charged with the commiſſion of a criminal action; (ſo falſe is the aſſertion of the author who tells us, that confuſion is the certain ſign of guilt) hung down her head; and ſtood trembling with a tear juſt ready to ſtart in either eye.

He repeated the queſtion with a more elevated voice, and redoubled her confuſion.

"Lookee, Lizzy," (continued he, finding that ſhe made not the leaſt effort to open her lips) "I don't like this dumb "behaviour in you. I ſee, plainly "enough, that you have a nonſenſical "hankering after Mitchell: but take no-"tice of what I am going to ſay; If you "don't conſent to receive Sir Thomas "when he comes next Saturday, this is "Thurſday, mind me, as the man who "is to be your huſband, child, I'll ſend "you packing, and cut you off with a "ſhilling. I can't imagine what you "mean by ſtanding out ſo obſtinately, "you undutiful little devil, when you "have ſo fine an opportunity to raiſe "yourſelf in the world.—Few girls, I "believe, would be ſo curſed ſilly as to "let ſuch a man as Sir Thomas ſlip "through their fingers.—What do you "cry for, you ſimpleton?"

"OH Sir! (replied Lizzy) what "have I done, how have I miſbehaved, "to deſerve to be made miſerable for life?"

"MISERABLE!——I don't underſtand "you——Miſerable?"

"BY being married to the man whom "I cannot love."

"As for love, that's a joke all over. "—Sir Thomas is as clever a man as "one would wiſh to ſee, he has a very "good eſtate, and he is a baronet into the "bargain.—Now, I ſay, that if you can "be miſerable with ſuch a man, it will "be quite your own fault:—therefore, "pray go and try to bring yourſelf into "a better way of thinking about this "affair, and don't drive me to do a diſ-"agreeable thing, by refuſing a huſband "who is one of a thouſand, ſetting aſide "his title and eſtate."

LIZZY, being very well aſſured that all her attempts to make him change his reſolution would be ineffectual, retired weeping, in ſilence, to her own apart-

ment, where ſhe gave a free vent to the ſorrows of her heart.

Lizzy's apartment joined to Lady Trett's dreſſing-room, who hearing her ſigh heavily, and frequently exclaim, "How, how ſhall I conduct myſelf in "this trying ſituation!" came in to her; and with a ſmile upon her face aſked, in very kind accents, "what ſhe had "met with to occaſion ſo diſtreſsful an "appearance, and to force ſuch me-"lancholy expreſſions from her?"

As Lady Trett had not for ſome time ſpoken to her with any cordiality, but had rather behaved in an unaffectionate manner, Lizzy was not a little ſurpriſed at the ſudden alteration in her carriage; but being willing to impute that alteration to a conſciouſneſs of having treated her with unmerited neglect, and to a deſire to make amends for her paſt by her future behaviour, ſhe received her ladyſhip with the moſt ſtriking marks of ſatisfaction; and having returned her many thanks for ſo friendly

friendly a viſit, acquainted her with the cauſe of her uneaſineſs, by repeating what her father had ſaid to her concerning Sir Thomas Delton.

"My dear Miſs Trett," replied her ladyſhip, when Lizzy had with frequent interruptions opened her heart, "dry "up your tears, and do not make your- "ſelf unhappy about your marriage with "Sir Thomas Delton, which I will un- "dertake to break off, as the bare ap- "prehenſion of being united to him fills "you with ſo much diſquiet. I ſin- "cerely pity your condition, and will "do every thing in my power to make "Sir Timothy deſiſt from perſecuting "you with the addreſſes of a man, who "——I hear Sir Timothy's voice upon "the ſtairs, and will directly make an "effort in your favour."

Lady Trett then quitted the room abruptly, leaving her daughter-in-law agitated by a variety of emotions, alternately pleaſurable and painful, and ſtretching

her faculties to account for the agreeable change in her ladyſhip's deportment. "By what motives ſhe is urged (ſaid "Lizzy) to break off the marriage which "is ſo hateful to me, I know not; but "if ſhe *does* prevail on my father to put "a ſtop to Sir Thomas's viſits as a lover, "I ſhall be under obligations to her."

I AM ſorry to ſay that Lady Trett was not actuated by the moſt laudable motives to remove the uneaſineſs by which Miſs Trett was oppreſſed, after the final reſolution of her father with regard to the huſband whom he had ſingled out for her, in oppoſition to the only man to whom ſhe could give her hand, without doing violence to her inclination:—I am ſorry to ſay—I repeat the words—that Lady Trett's motives were not of the commendable kind; but———they certainly were not.—Pride, envy, and jealouſy, three paſſions which not unfrequently ſtir up a deſtructive ſtorm in female breaſt, particularly in the brea

of a woman of ſpirit, having all taken poſſeſſion of her ladyſhip's boſom, prevented her from being tolerably quiet till ſhe had ſtruck ſome important blow for the gratification of them.

A SOLILOQUY of her ladyſhip's not a great while before her ears were attracted by Miſs Trett's ſighs and exclamations, will throw ſo ſtrong a light upon her real character, that my readers, if they have not Bœotian underſtandings, cannot poſſibly entertain wrong notions about it.

"THIS girl is ſo much admired by "every body who ſees her, that I am of "no ſort of conſequence in her com-"pany. I wonder what Sir Thomas ſees "in her to make ſuch a fuſs with her: "he is always ſtunning me with com-"pliments upon her perſon, her man-"ners, and her ſenſe: for my part, I am "quite ſick of the ſound of them. He "might, I think, be leſs liberal of his "fine ſpeeches in Miſs Trett's favour "before me, for I have been allowed by

"men

" men full as competent judges of beauty
" as himſelf to be handſome; neither my
" carriage nor converſation have wanted
" admirers among his ſex, equally ſenſi-
" ble and polite: but after all, he is a
" pretty fellow, and I muſt, if poſſible,
" hinder him from making Miſs Trett
" Lady Delton; for to ſee *her* take place
" of me every where, will be abſolutely
" inſupportable."

Upon the above ſoliloquy no commentary is, I hope, requiſite.

Lady Trett was not miſtaken when ſhe heard Sir Timothy's voice upon the ſtairs; but ſhe was much diſappointed when ſhe approached the place to which her ear directed her, to find that he was juſt gone out of the houſe: being, therefore, obliged to defer the execution of her deſigns till his return, ſhe ſat down and amuſed herſelf with conſidering how thoſe deſigns might in the beſt manner be executed.

WHILE ſhe was ſo employed, a young lady in the neighbourhood, with whom Miſs Trett ſpent many agreeable hours, though ſhe was not altogether pleaſed either with her principles or propenſities, was announced.

LADY Trett being juſt at that time more inclined to converſe with herſelf than with Miſs Stanhope, told her that her friend was in her own apartment, and very much wanted the chat of ſo lively a companion to raiſe her ſpirits.

"POOR Trett! (ſaid Miſs Stanhope) "I am exceſſively ſhocked to hear that "ſhe is in the mopes; but I'll ſet her "ſpirits ſpinning again; and ſo, my Lady, "your moſt obedient."

AFTER the delivery of that little ſpeech, which ſhe uttered with an infinite deal of vivacity, ſhe whiſked out of the room, and tripped up ſtairs with her uſual celerity.

WHILE Miſs Stanhope is tripping up to Miſs Trett's apartment, my fair readers, perhaps, will not think their time quite thrown

thrown away, during the peruſal of the following ſketch of her charms, character, and connections.

Miss Stanhope was about two-and-twenty; ſhe was tall, well-made, and graceful in her carriage. Her features were regular, and prettily diſpoſed; but ſhe led too faſhionable a life to appear a *beautiful* object, till ſhe had called art to her aid: for, having racketted away all the bloom which nature had liberally diffuſed over her face by late hours and perpetual motion, ſhe could not exhibit that face in public, among the *glowing* complexions of the age, without being pointed at for a ghoſt, before ſhe had crimſoned her cheeks.

So much for her perſonal charms. As to her character, it was altogether faſhionable. the ſupreme joy of her life was diſſipation; and ſhe was never happy but when ſhe was in a crowd.—Routs, concerts, plays, operas, reviews, popular hoſpitals, churches and chapels; public amuſe-

amuſements, in ſhort, of all kinds attracted her in ſo powerful a manner, that ſhe was the moſt miſerable being in the univerſe, in a ſober, ſentimental party at home with an old aunt, whoſe valetudinary ſtate of health would not permit her to go much abroad, and whoſe reliſh was naturally ſtronger for the calm comforts of private, than the tumultuous delights of high, life. With that aunt Miſs Stanhope ſometimes prevailed on herſelf to drone away an afternoon (becauſe ſhe had conſiderable expectations from her), and ſome of her venerable acquaintance, who having outlived their taſte for the pleaſures of the age, were rather acrimonious in their remarks on thoſe young females whoſe blood is warm within, and cannot, conſequently, bear to ſit like their grandmothers cut in alabaſter. As to her connections, they were of that ſort which ſerved to add fewel to her predominant paſſions; for the majority of her companions were people of rank, faſhion, and fortune,

fortune, who had inſtilled ſo many ſpirited notions into her head, that ſhe was in a fair way to commit violent indiſcretions, of which, however, ſhe had not yet been guilty.

Upon her entrance into Miſs Trett's apartment, ſhe found her in ſo melancholy a mood, that ſhe was, herſelf, almoſt damped at the ſight of her, and really imagined that ſhe was very much out of order.—In conſequence of this ſurmiſe ſhe preſſed her with much importunity to tell her what had thrown her into ſo dejected a ſtate.

Lizzy, though ſhe at that time would have been better pleaſed to enjoy her own thoughts without interruption, was ſo flattered by the apparent earneſtneſs with which Bell enquired after the ſituation of her body and her mind, that ſhe firſt freely confeſſed her uneaſineſs to proceed from the latter, and then as freely acquainted her with the nature of her diſquiet.—"Am I not, my dear,

" (continued ſhe) in a very aukward, not " to ſay unhappy, condition; and have " I not reaſon to appear the melancholy " creature you ſee me? Pulled different " ways, as I am, by love and duty, the " conflict between thoſe contending paſ- " ſions is ſo ſevere, that I ſuffer the moſt " tormenting ſenſations."

" WITH regard to your condition, my " dear Lizzy, it is, to be ſure, as you ſay, " aukward enough; but the unhappineſs " of it is entirely owing to yourſelf."

" How ſo?—That aſſertion wants an " explanation."

" YOU ſhall have it directly, child: " you want ſpirit."

" SPIRIT?"

" AY, certainly! you ſhould have told " your father, that you never would be " married to the man whom you did not " like."

" AND ſo, by flying in the face of a " good parent——good to me upon all " other occaſions——irritate him to

" puniſh

"puniſh my diſobedience, by withdraw-
"ing his paternal protection."

"NAY, indeed, Lizzy, if you carry
"your ideas of filial duty to ſuch an ex-
"travagant pitch, you are doomed to
"be unhappy; but for my part, were I
"circumſtanced as you are, I ſhould ſoon
"put an end to the conflict you com-
"plain of."

"BY what means?"

"BY letting my lover, the man of my
"heart, know that I was ready, in ſpite
"of all oppoſition, to throw myſelf under
"*his* protection.--But I ſee, by your looks,
"that my doctrine makes no impreſſion
"upon you, and therefore I ſhall not
"waſte my breath any longer in giving
"advice ſo very unpalatable.—I ſhall
"be abſolutely as ſtupid as you are if I
"ſtay, and therefore I wiſh you a good
"morning."

BELL then bounded out of the room with her accuſtomed elaſticity; but be-

fore ſhe had reached the firſt floor returned with equal briſkneſs, and deſired her friend to think ſeriouſly upon what ſhe had ſaid to her.—"Send the converſation which has paſſed between us (added ſhe) in a note to Mitchell, and if he is a man of activity and addreſs, he will undoubtedly contrive to carry *my* hints into execution:—and ſo, once more, *bon jour.*"

Lizzy, when her lively viſiter was gone, *did* indeed think ſeriouſly upon what had been ſaid to her; but could not, poſſibly, bring herſelf to follow admonitions which militated ſo ſtrongly againſt the principles that were too firmly rivetted in her mind to be diſlodged.

When Sir Timothy came home, Lady Trett took no ſmall pains to divert him from his deſign of making his daughter a baronet's lady. Under the appearance of the ſincereſt compaſſion for Lizzy, which ſhe counterfeited ſo well that it was not

ſuſpected,

ſuſpected, ſhe endeavoured to ſoften his ſeverity againſt her, and to reconcile him to the addreſſes of a man whom he had himſelf formerly encouraged, and againſt whom he could not frame any rational objections, as his merit was conſiderable, his ſituation in life genteel, and his expectations in the mercantile way very flattering.

Sir Timothy having ſet his heart on ſeeing his daughter figure with a bloody hand upon her carriage, and having been too much dazzled by his new connections to reflect properly on the foundation of the pompous appearance which he made in the world (little dreaming all the while that he was heartily laughed at and deſpiſed by all his *dear friends*), felt his blood boil at the thoughts of a plebeian alliance, and threw out many ſarcaſtical expreſſions againſt the trading part of mankind, in the utterance of which he diſcovered a plentiful quantity of pride, and a deplorable lack of prudence: for as he roſe to the riches which he poſſeſſed by his

ſucceſs in commerce, he certainly ſhould have been the laſt man to have ſpoken paſſionately diſreſpectful of it. To correct thoſe expreſſions, and to infuſe different thoughts into his head, Lady Trett availed herſelf of all the arguments the moſt likely in her opinion (and ſhe had a great deal of that kind of ſagacity generally called ſhrewdneſs) to have any influence over him; not without intermixing with the arguments which ſhe adopted, certain little arts peculiar to her ſex, and ſuitable to the occaſion; and by her combined efforts mollified him, at laſt, in ſuch a manner, that he began to feel penitential ſenſations for having talked to Lizzy in ſo peremptory a tone, and for having treated her with ſo much unkindneſs. The father got the better of the fool; and he determined, under the impreſſion of paternal affection, not only to alter his behaviour to her, but to promote her felicity according to her own ideas of it.

WHEN he left her with that intention, Lady Trett gave herſelf up to the pleaſure which aroſe in her breaſt, by reflecting upon the power which ſhe had over Sir Timothy, and to the ſatisfaction which ſhe received from having been able to prevent a mortifying marriage in the family.

WHILE ſhe was ſitting in a ruminating attitude, not a little pleaſed with her conjugal conſequence, a ſervant informed her of the arrival of Sir Thomas Delton.

AT the mention of Sir Thomas's name ſhe ſtarted from her reverie, and with a ſpirited tone gave orders for his immediate admiſſion to her. When the ſervant returned to execute her commands, ſhe repaired to the glaſs; and having thoroughly examined herſelf in it, with impatience expected the entrance of the baronet into the room.

As ſoon as the firſt civilities uſually exchanged among people of good-breeding were over between them, Sir Thomas begged to know if Sir Timothy was at

home, as he wiſhed to ſpeak with him about an affair on which the future happineſs of his life depended.

"I CANNOT abſolutely ſay (replied "Lady Trett) that he is not in the houſe, "but he is at preſent engaged in buſineſs "of ſo particular a nature, that you will, "I hope, excuſe my not diſturbing him. "But I ſuppoſe (added ſhe, ſmiling) "that I may be entruſted with what you "are ſo deſirous of communicating to "him."

SIR Thomas, as he had, in his viſits to the family, obſerved in her ladyſhip's behaviour to her daughter-in-law, ſomething which induced him to imagine that ſhe was not inclined to facilitate the union which he meditated, was at firſt very loth to unboſom himſelf; but thinking afterwards, that by treating her as if unworthy of his confidence, he ſhould only kindle reſentment in her, and make her an active enemy, he fairly diſcloſed the ſecrets of his heart to her, with regard to his

his paſſion for Miſs Trett, and endeavoured with all the addreſs he was maſter of to fix her for his friend.

LADY Trett having heard him, with an earneſtneſs of attention as if ſhe really intereſted herſelf in her affairs, avow the uneaſineſs which he felt at not finding his addreſſes to Miſs Trett well received by her, and his inability to enjoy any happineſs, if Sir Timothy rejected him as a relation, ſtrongly diſſuaded him from encouraging an attachment to a point, the carrying of which would only render the woman for whom he declared a particular regard, miſerable for the remainder of her life, without procuring the felicity which he inconſiderately promiſed himſelf from being united to her. "Indeed, Sir "Thomas, (continued ſhe) you will diſ-"cover more prudence by withdrawing "your addreſſes to my daughter, who "beholds you (truth upon ſuch an occa-"ſion muſt not be diſguiſed) with an "immoveable indifference, and make

"your

" your advances to another, who having
" no pre-engagement will be, 'tis highly
" probable, more ſenſible of your merit,
" and conſequently more deſerving of
" your attention."

" Oh madam! (ſaid Sir Thomas, ſigh-
" ing) all that you have ſaid only doubles
" my deſire to poſſeſs the ſole object of
" my wiſhes. My ſoul doats on Miſs
" Trett: ſhe is always preſent to my
" imagination: I think of her every
" hour in the day, and I dream every
" night of nothing but her.—She is ſo
" neceſſary to my happineſs, that life
" will be a burthen to me if I am not—
" Prudence, madam! what has prudence
" to do with love?—No, my Lady, the
" paſſion which I feel for Miſs Trett is
" not to be checked by prudential conſi-
" derations.—You ſay that her indiffer-
" ence to me is immoveable:—I am
" willing to believe, that if I was but
" bleſſed with the conſummation of my
" wiſhes, time and my perpetual aſſidui-

" ties

"ties to ſoften her heart in my favour "would prove ſucceſsful. She ſeems not "to be of an obdurate diſpoſition; ſhe "ſeems rather to have an heart ſuſcepti- "ble of the tendereſt impreſſions; ſuch "an heart cannot ſurely be always ſteeled "againſt the man who ſtudies unweariedly "to make its feelings ſimilar to his own."

"You talk like a rapturous lover, "(ſaid Lady Trett) but not like a rea- "ſonable man, and I will therefore leave "you to Sir Timothy, whoſe ſteps I "hear approaching this way; hoping "that he will more powerfully convince "you than I have been able to do, that "by perſevering in the indulgence of an "ill-placed paſſion, you will certainly "increaſe the pain of diſappointment."

As ſoon as Lady Trett had uttered the laſt words Sir Timothy entered the room, and ſhe retired into another by an oppoſite door.

Sir Timothy, not having expected to ſee Sir Thomas, as he was not, according

to his own appointment, to be in town till the Saturday following, ſtarted at the ſight of him, and could not help wondering what buſineſs had brought him from the country before the time mentioned.

Sir Timothy's ſurpriſe upon the occaſion was not merely expreſſed by ſhrugged-up ſhoulders, elevated eye-brows, or expanded hands.—After having expreſſed it without the aſſiſtance of words, he had recourſe to *them*. He aſked Sir Thomas what had occaſioned his viſit two days before the day fixed for it; but that queſtion was delivered with a coolneſs which made Sir Thomas equally aſtoniſhed at the alteration in his behaviour.

"The little buſineſs which hurried "me from London, Sir Timothy, having "been finiſhed ſooner than I expected, "I had no inducement to delay my re-"turn; and the great regard which I "have for your amiable daughter, would "not ſuffer me upon my re-arrival to

"wait

" wait any longer without endeavouring " to ſee her.——I cannot live without " her."

" THEN you cannot live at all," (ſaid Sir Timothy, walking up and down the room, aukwardly diſtreſſed) " for ſhe is " engaged to another."

" HER heart, I am afraid, has been " long engaged; but you gave me reaſon " to hope, when I ſaw you before I went " out of town, that you would complete " my happineſs by making me allied to " you.—What has happened, Sir Ti- " mothy, to occaſion a change in your " ſentiments about me, ſince my laſt " converſation with you upon the ſingle " ſubject which engroſſes my thoughts, " and robs my mind of all its uſual " tranquility."

" WHY lookee here, Sir Thomas, " when ſuch matters as theſe are to be " ſettled, few words are beſt, and the truth " beſt of all.—Lizzy, I find, will be " ready to hang herſelf, if ſhe is married

" to

" to any body but the young fellow there
" in the city, who has found means to
" coax her affections and wheedle himſelf
" into her good graces; and ſo, the ſhort
" of the thing is, rather than drive the
" poor girl to do herſelf a miſchief, I
" have determined to let her have him, as
" I cannot make any reaſonable objection
" either to his character or circumſtances."

" And are you really determined to
" make me thoroughly miſerable, by
" giving Miſs Trett to my rival's arms?"

" I want to make no man miſerable,
" Sir Thomas; I would not hurt a worm:
" but you may be ſure, that if your mar-
" riage with my daughter is the only
" thing which can make you otherwiſe,
" I ſhall not help to make you ſo at her
" expence.—I have no fault to find with
" you, Sir Thomas; but the ſhort and
" the long is, Lizzy does not fancy you;
" ſhe likes ſomebody better: and ſo there's
" an end of the affair, without any far-
" ther talking about it."

" Well,

"WELL, Sir Timothy, ſince it is not "in my power, I find, to prevail on you "to change your reſolution, by ac- "quainting you with the wretchedneſs "which I ſhall endure from your adhe- "rence to it, I will not either take up "your time, or waſte my own any longer; "but I cannot leave you, however, with- "out hoping that you will endeavour "to reconcile Miſs Trett to an union, "to which ſhe has at preſent ſo cruel an "averſion."

AT the concluſion of that ſpeech, Sir Thomas quitted the room, and went home full of the moſt diſquieting reflections; reflections which were the more ſeverely poignant, becauſe he had, at his entrance into Sir Timothy's houſe, expected, from the flattery of hope, a very different reception in it.

PREVIOUS to the above dialogue between Sir Thomas and Sir Timothy, was the following one between Sir Timothy and his daughter, which could not be well introduced before.

WHEN Sir Timothy left his lady, fully reſolved to alter his behaviour to his daughter, and to promote her felicity in the manner ſhe wiſhed to have it promoted, he repaired directly to her dreſſing-room.

LIZZY was ſitting full of ſerious thoughts on the converſation which had paſſed between her and Miſs Stanhope, and at the entrance of her father ſtarted; through ſurpriſe ſhe ſtarted, and from fear ſhe trembled, being ſtrongly apprehenſive that his viſit to her would prove a diſagreeable ſequel to his former one.

HIS firſt appearance had, indeed, the above-mentioned effect upon her ſpirits; but on his nearer approach ſhe perceived an alteration in his features, which filled her with flattering hopes, and ſeemed to prognoſticate a change in his ſentiments favourable to her.

FLATTERED with thoſe hopes ſhe roſe from her chair, and advanced to meet him in the moſt reſpectful manner. She was juſt going to open her lips in order to ſatisfy

tisfy her curioſity, when he prevented the utterance of what ſhe had intended to ſay, by deſiring her to go back to her chair.

"SIT down, Lizzy, I have ſomething "particular to tell you."

HE then ſeated himſelf by her, and thus proceeded:

"YOU have been crying, I ſee, my "dear."

THE mildneſs with which he ſpoke thoſe few words, eſpecially the two laſt, which ſhe had not heard from him addreſſed to herſelf for ſome time, encouraged her to believe that he really felt ſome compunction on recollecting his late behaviour to her, and was deſirous to make amends for it, by a more indulgent carriage.

TOUCHED, therefore, by his ſofter accents, though afraid to reckon too much upon them, ſhe ſmiled, faintly, through her tears, and ſaid, with a feeble voice, "I have, indeed, been weeping, Sir! "Have I not had reaſon to weep, ſince

" you left me this morning ſo much
" incenced againſt me?"

" Ay, ay, Lizzy, I was very angry
" with you then, to be ſure, becauſe I
" could not bring you to reliſh the man
" I had pitched upon for a huſband; but
" I have conſidered the matter ſince, and
" upon ſecond thoughts, am willing to
" make you happy in your own way, if
" I can, child: I don't think I am a
" hard-hearted parent.—I am ſure, Liz-
" zy, I wiſh from the bottom of my
" ſoul to ſee you well-married; and as I
" find you are ſo bent againſt Sir Thomas,
" and ſo prejudiced in Mitchell's favour,
" why you ſhall have my conſent to re-
" ceive his addreſſes again, if he has not
" engaged himſelf elſewhere:—for you
" muſt know, Lizzy, after the ſharp
" reception which Mr. Plumtree met
" with from me, I ſhouldn't wonder, if
" your old lover gave you up as gone
" for ever."

Sir Timothy pauſing here, Lizzy embraced that opportunity to thank him, upon her knees, for having retracted his ſevere determination in Sir Thomas's behalf; and for kindly conſenting to promote her felicity, in being united to the only man whom ſhe could ever think of for a huſband.

"Well, well, ſaid Timothy, I am "ſatisfied with your behaviour; get up "upon your legs, my girl, and depend "upon my doing what I can to bring "matters about for you. I will go my-"ſelf to-morrow to Mr. Plumtree, and "talk over things with him and Mitchell: "when we have all laid our heads to-"gether, ſomething, perhaps, may be "done to make you eaſy."

At the concluſion of that ſpeech he left his daughter to ruminate upon it, telling her, as he went out of the room, that he was going to learn a new ſtep of Gallini, and to attend an auction of very capital pictures juſt imported from Italy.

THE departure of her father threw Lizzy into a train of reflections, very different from thoſe which occupied her mind before he entered her apartment with his altered looks. She began to image the moſt pleaſing preſages from her father's parting aſſurances; and as ſhe had no reaſon to ſuſpect the conſtancy of her lover, ſhe was ready to wait without impatience till he was informed of the fortunate turn in his favour, by the perſon to whom he was indebted for it.——— After having reſolved, however, to wait for the return of Sir Timothy from his viſit, the next morning; a few tender ſenſations riſing in her boſom, prompted her, with an irreſiſtible impulſe, to convey a little note to him before the evening: not being able to retire to reſt without communicating to him a piece of news, which would, ſhe flattered herſelf, rejoice his heart as much as it had gladdened her's.

THE note which ſhe ſent to her lover was ſhort; for her ſpirits were too much

agitated, though agreeably ſo, to permit her to write a long one: it only contained the following lines:

To Mr. Charles Mitchell.

"Sir,

"As I have all the reaſon in the "world to believe that your attachment "to me has not been weakened by the "prohibition of our interviews, you will "undoubtedly not be ſorry to hear that a "fortunate alteration in my father's ſen-"timents, may, probably, occaſion the "renewal of them.—Sir Timothy in-"tends to wait on Mr. Plumtree to-mor-"row.—Adieu—

"Be as faithful as your

"Eliza."

With this note I ſhall beg leave to convey my readers from Sir Timothy's *hotel* to Mr. Plumtree's habitation, in which it occaſioned no ſmall commotion, and not a little diſquietude.

Mr. Plumtree having been too much affected by the melancholy ſituation of his daughter, laid aſide all thoughts of making another viſit to Sir Timothy, in order to mollify him in Mr. Mitchell's favour, and to facilitate the union between him and Miſs Trett.—Inſtead of attempting to make his appearance again in Groſvenor-ſtreet, he cloſeted his young partner a few hours before the arrival of the above note, and unboſomed himſelf in the ſubſequent terms.

"My dear Charles, I am going to "open my heart to you upon a very par- "ticular occaſion; ſo particular a one, "that I am almoſt afraid to deliver what "I long to communicate, becauſe I ſhall "put your worthy heart thereby to a "ſevere trial, and fill it with the moſt "cutting ſenſations."

There was ſomething ſo ſingular, and indeed alarming, in Mr. Plumtree's preamble, that Mitchell could not help feeling very diſagreeable ſenſations. He too had

had been affected by Miſs Plumtree's melancholy condition, and had fully expected that her father would take ſome notice of it to him; but when the expected moment came, he felt himſelf violently agitated, and pained by a variety of conflicting emotions.—Uncertain, however, whether Mr. Plumtree, by the few introductory ſentences which he had uttered, was going to impart intelligence about Miſs Trett, or his own daughter, he preſſed him eagerly to proceed without any farther preface.

Mr. Plumtree having indeed pauſed from the force of his paternal feelings, which made the tears of compaſſion tremble in his eyes, thus went on:

"I SHALL try your heart ſeverely, "Charles: do you think you can ſtand "the ſhock?—I ſhall put your humanity "to the teſt."

"WHY all this circumlocution, Sir? "(ſaid Mitchell) why theſe ceremonious "ſentences?"

" BECAUSE (ſaid Mr. Plumtree) I don't
" know how to deliver what I wiſh to
" ſay; but—I will no longer ſuppreſs
" what ſtruggles for a vent.—You are
" not unacquainted with my poor girl's
" unhappy ſituation, and you cannot alſo,
" I think, be unacquainted with the cauſe
" of it.—She is, you ſee, evidently in
" a declining way; and I am not en-
" couraged to believe, that ſhe will get
" over the diſorder which hangs upon
" her ſpirits, unleſs the tender paſſion
" which has occaſioned it, is returned by
" the object who raiſed it in her breaſt.—
" I need not, I truſt, be more explicit
" upon this occaſion; you cannot, I
" think, be ignorant of your conſequence
" in her eyes, which is, I with ſorrow,
" with pity perceive, ſo great, that you
" are abſolutely neceſſary to her happi-
" neſs, without which her health will ne-
" ver be re-eſtabliſhed. While the mind
" is in ſo deplorable a ſtate, ſhe cannot
" be otherwiſe than a wretched being

" while

" while ſhe lives; and live ſhe cannot a
" great while, I think; nor indeed, can
" I wiſh her to live under ſuch a load of
" affliction. In ſhort, my dear Charles,
" to ſpeak very plainly, for as the poor
" girl is circumſtanced, it would be in
" the higheſt degree abſurd to mince the
" matter, the reſtoration of her health,
" and the return of her peace of mind,
" depends entirely upon you.—The taſk
" which I have undertaken, you may be
" ſure, is a hard one, becauſe I am very
" ſenſible that your affections are engaged
" to Miſs Trett; but as there is no ſort
" of probability that Sir Timothy will
" ever conſent to your being united to
" her, for he was very peremptory in his
" behaviour to me about you, and I have
" had many proofs of the obſtinacy of
" his temper, when he has once ſet his
" mind upon a thing; I ſay, as there is
" no reaſon to imagine that Sir Timothy
" will agree to receive you into his family
" as a relation, you may poſſibly, how-

" ever

" ever diſagreeable it may be to you to
" do ſo, give up your hopes with regard
" to Miſs Trett, by reflecting that you
" cannot expect to make her your wife,
" without flying in her father's face, and
" bidding defiance to him by a clande-
" ſtine marriage, the conſequences of
" which may prove more fatal than for-
" tunate."

HERE Mr. Plumtree ſtopped, and waited for an anſwer from Charles; but he was not in a condition to make a reply. His ideas were thrown into the utmoſt confuſion, and every fibre of his heart was ſhaken by what he had heard; ſo that he could not ſpeak a ſingle word.—A profound ſilence, therefore, followed, for ſome moments, during which Charles ſeveral times roſe from and returned to his ſeat; and by his looks and geſtures, ſitting, ſtanding, or walking, diſcovered the ſtrongeſt ſigns of a diſtracted mind.

MR. Plumtree was himſelf in a not much leſs unquiet ſtate, for having raiſed

ſo

ſo cruel a conflict in the breaſt of a man whom he had long before treated with all the tender regard of an affectionate parent. He waited with impatience, with anxiety, for ſome ſort of anſwer to what he had been ſaying, but wondered not at the ſame time, that the lips of his young friend were ſealed up, from a conſciouſneſs that he had ſaid enough to ſuſpend his powers of articulation: at laſt, compaſſionating the ſituation into which he had thrown him, and finding him utterly unable to know how to conduct himſelf in ſo diſtreſsful a dilemma, he went up to him, and having embraced him in his arms, with a fatherly fondneſs, ſaid, "Dear Charles, I pity you from my ſoul: "do you in return pity me."

THOSE few words were uttered with a tremulous voice, and very indiſtinctly pronounced.—A ſhower of tears prevented entirely the utterance of more.—Unable, however, as he was to articulate, he hung for a while over him, in ſilent ſorrow,

and

and then, having ſtrained him to his boſom, broke from him, with "Oh Charles! "conſider that I am a parent!"—feebly, but moſt affectingly delivered.

Mr. Plumtree's pathetic accents at his departure made ſuch an impreſſion upon Mitchell, that he inſtantly awaked from the reverie into which the anguiſh of reflection had plunged him, and could not refrain from crying aloud, "Good Hea- "vens! how unfortunately am I ſituated! "how perplexing is my condition! how "ſevere is my diſtreſs! which way ſhall "I determine!—If I am faithful to my "dear Lizzy, Maria dies.—If I ſave "Maria's life, I may, perhaps, render "Lizzy's for ever miſerable, hopeleſs as "I am of ever being bleſt with the poſ- "ſeſſion of her.—Should ſhe be forced "by the tyranny of her father into the "arms of another, ſhe may, poſſibly, "while I preſerve my fidelity unſhaken, "receive ſome conſolation, in the midſt "of her diſappointment, in her moments

"of

" of unhappineſs, with thinking that our
" union, though retarded, may ſome time
" or other be completed.—But if I mar-
" ry Maria, ſhe will be deprived of that
" only conſolation, ſhould her mind not
" be changed by her new connection.—
" Love for my dear Lizzy urges me
" ſtrongly to ſuſpend my determination,
" till I am aſſured that her attachment
" to me is not weakened; but while I
" determine how to act, Maria——"

THE entrance of Sutton, as ſoon as he had pronounced the laſt word, prevented the continuation of his ſoliloquy.

THE END OF THE SECOND BOOK.

BOOK THE THIRD.

SUTTON, having left his friend rather in a ſelf-flattering ſituation, was not a little ſurpriſed to find him dejected beyond expreſſion.—Charles was, indeed, in that ſituation at that time, becauſe he was willing to hope, from Mr. Plumtree's renewed efforts in his favour with Sir Timothy, that the father of his amiable Lizzy would be at length prevailed on to permit the revival of his addreſſes to her, and not perſiſt deſpotically to doom her to the arms of a man againſt whom her inclination revolted, merely for the ſake of a title; for in point of fortune he was in a fair way of riſing ſuperior to his rival.

GEORGE, not heraing any thing about the interview which had occaſioned the de-

dejection which he obſerved, intreated his friend with his uſual warmth of language, to inform him what had happened ſince they parted, to make ſuch a change in his countenance.

CHARLES then communicated to him all that had paſſed between him and Mr. Plumtree, and added with a ſigh, "You "ſee, my dear friend, how much reaſon "I have to wear a melancholy aſpect; "am I not moſt unhappily circum-"ſtanced?"

"WHY, indeed, Charles, you are "ſo, and I ſincerely wiſh that I could "render you otherwiſe: you are alſo ſo "delicately ſituated, that I know not "how to offer any advice, with regard to "your conduct: I only know that were "I in the ſame condition, I ſhould be "almoſt diſtracted.——But come, my "friend, give not yourſelf up to deſpair; "ſomething may happen to bring your "affairs to a fortunate concluſion. Com-"pared to me, however, you are ſtill an

"happy

"happy man; for you are ſure of being "beloved by two women, whereas *I* am "in the utmoſt perplexity to find out "whether the only perſon for whom I "feel any tender emotions, is equally "affected.—Were I but aſſured of Har-"riot's partiality for me, I ſhould be the "moſt contented being in the world."

At that inſtant a ſervant delivered a note to Sutton from Harriot, to inform him, that ſhe and her aunt were come to town for a few days; and that they ſhould be glad to ſee him when he had a leiſure half hour.

George, forgetting all that he had heard at the coffee-houſe to make him ſuſpect the fidelity of his Harriot, flew out of the room immediately, without ſaying a ſyllable to Mitchell; the ſenſations of the lover quite overpowering the feelings of the friend.

As ſoon as Sutton quitted the room, Charles again relapſed into a train of the moſt agonizing reflections, and again vented

vented the griefs which almoſt rent his heart in the moſt pathetic accents.

GEORGE, as ſoon as he had knocked at the door of Mr. Lawſon's houſe, felt himſelf in a very unenviable condition. He became apprehenſive that what he had heard relating to Harriot's behaviour at the Richmond Aſſembly was true, and felt reſentment riſing in his breaſt; which operated ſo powerfully upon him, that ſoon after the exchange of civilities was over between him and Miſs Lawſon, who was alone when he entered the room, he, in an ironical tone, "hoped that ſhe had "been very happy with Mr. Fenton's "attentions to her."

HARRIOT being conſcious of not having deſerved ſuch a ſpeech, delivered in ſuch a manner, found herſelf piqued at ſo unexpected an alteration in his behaviour to her, and told him with a little warmth, that ſhe was quite at a loſs to know what he meant by throwing out ſo ſarcaſtical an inſinuation,—"Mr. Fen-

" ton behaved like a gentleman (conti-
" nued ſhe) during the evening, and was
" therefore entitled to all the civilities
" which he received from me."

HARRIOT's guarded anſwer had the effect upon her lover which ſhe intended it ſhould have; for it confirmed the ſuſpicions which he had before entertained concerning her fidelity to him, and fired him with jealouſy, to which paſſion ſhe was determined to give encouragement, that ſhe might, after having thoroughly enjoyed his perplexity and diſquietude, render him doubly ſenſible of the raſhneſs of his carriage by undeceiving him.

" 'TIS mighty well, madam," (ſaid George, nettled at a reply uttered with a very provoking compoſure, and mortifying coolneſs) " I ſee plainly, that my
" conjectures were not ill-grounded: I
" was afraid from what Fenton ſaid about
" you, that you had quite forgotten *me*;
" and now I am too ſtrongly convinced,
" that I no longer appear to you in the
" light

"light I did, when we laſt parted from "each other."

HARRIOT's delicacy began now to be extremely ſhocked, fearing that Fenton had given himſelf very improper liberties in ſpeaking of her; and had by ſo doing, given her lover ſufficient reaſon to be alarmed, if his paſſion for her was as ſincere as ſhe imagined it to be.—Her reſentment, therefore, was a little lowered: compaſſion ſoftened her heart, and curioſity prompted her to hear what had filled her lover with ſenſations deſtructive of *her* peace, as well as his own. She accordingly aſked him, what Fenton had mentioned to him concerning her, but with a voice which diſcovered no emotions in his favour.

GEORGE, though he was pleaſed with the emotions which he perceived, wiſhed ſo much to be aſſured that his ſuppoſed rival had met with no encouragement from her, that he purpoſely returned an anſwer to induce her to believe, that her

diſcretion had been rendered diſputable by the repreſentation of his intelligencer.

PIQUED again to think that the man whom ſhe had diſtinguiſhed by particular marks of her eſteem, had from the licentious converſation of an impertinent coxcomb received impreſſions to her prejudice, ſhe could not help telling him that he was not worthy of the regard which ſhe had ſhewed for him, as he had evidently ſuſpected the propriety of her conduct.

GEORGE, not ſatisfied with that reply, becauſe it did not in his opinion prove that her affections were not alienated from *him*, and transferred to another, anſwered briſkly and with ſome acrimony, "If "your regard for me, madam, had been "as great as I fondly thought it to be, it "would not have been ſo much weakened "in one night by ſuch a fellow as Fen-"ton, who is the jeſt of his own ſex, "and ought to be contemptible to yours."

"IN *one* night, Sir?" ſaid Harriot, with a glowing countenance, partly from reſentment, partly from indignation.

"YES, madam, in one night.—You "ſeem not at all to remember what paſſed "at the laſt Aſſembly; and yet by your "colouring, you have not, I fancy, quite "forgot it."

THE concluſion of his ſpeech was uttered in ſo taunting a manner, that Harriot, though ſhe ardently longed to ſilence his injurious ſuſpicions, by unfolding the true cauſe of them, with which he was certainly unacquainted, was provoked at his behaviour to ſay, "I remember every "thing that paſſed at that Aſſembly, on "that night, ſir, with pleaſure."

GEORGE was now diveſted of all patience: he ſtarted from his chair, and having ſaid, "You have ſaid enough, ma-"dam, to convince me that Fenton has "ſupplanted me, and that he is your "preferred lover," hurried out of the room.

IF Harriot had been collected enough to have returned an anſwer to her lover's laſt ſpeech, it would not have been heard

by him, with ſo much precipitation did he leave her; but ſhe was really ſo ſtruck at the abruptneſs of his departure, that ſhe remained rooted to her ſeat, and was neither able to ſpeak nor ſtir.

GEORGE, before he got to the ſtreet-door, threw Mrs. Lawſon into no ſmall perplexity and ſurpriſe, by telling her, when he met her upon the ſtairs, that it was all over with him; the meaning of which words ſhe did not perfectly comprehend, and therefore made haſte to her niece's apartment for an explanation of them.

JUST as ſhe arrived at the door of that apartment, Harriot appeared with a diſordered countenance, and with quick accents aſked her, if Mr. Sutton was gone out of the houſe.

"HE is, my dear, (ſaid her aunt) and "is gone away in a very odd humour. "He told me upon the ſtairs, that all "was over with him, and in his flurry "almoſt threw me down."

"OH

"OH madam! (replied Harriot) I "wiſh you had detained him."

"DETAIN him, child! I might as well "have attempted to ſtop the tide; I never "ſaw him in ſuch an agitation before. "For God's ſake, Harriot, what has paſſed "between you to occaſion ſuch a ſtrange "violence in his motions?—Come, my "dear, (continued ſhe, perceiving the tears juſt ready to guſh from her eyes) "ſit down upon the ſopha, and inform "me of the cauſe of his extraordinary "behaviour.—He is, I know, naturally "of a warm diſpoſition."

"WARM, madam! (ſaid Harriot) his "impetuoſity is beyond expreſſion.—I, "perhaps, have been too haſty; but *his* "behaviour was ſo irritating, that I could "not keep my temper."

SHE then acquainted her aunt with the converſation which had paſſed between her and Sutton, and concluded with ſaying, "Now you know, madam, that my cou-"ſin Clary was Mr. Fenton's partner

" all the evening, and that I neither " danced with him, nor exchanged above " a dozen words with him, from his firſt " appearance at the Aſſembly to his depar- " ture from it."

" It is very plain, my dear, (replied " Mrs. Lawſon) that Mr. Sutton run " away with the account which he heard " about Mr. Fenton's dancing at the Aſ- " ſembly, without making a ſufficient " enquiry concerning his partner; and " that being informed of his dancing " with a Miſs Lawſon, immediately " concluded that *you* and not your couſin " was the perſon talked of to him.—He " was, indeed, too haſty in believing that " *you* had been particular in your car- " riage to Mr. Fenton, and his behaviour " in conſequence of his credulity was " enough, I confeſs, to make you reſent " it; but I cannot help wiſhing, notwith- " ſtanding, that you had cleared up the " miſtake he lay under, before he had " time to quit the room; for as he is a

" man

" man of ſuch ſtrong paſſions, he may,
" perhaps, go and proceed in a very un-
" juſtifiable manner againſt the innocent
" diſturber of his peace."

HARRIOT, at the cloſe of her aunt's ſpeech, ſpringing from her ſeat, ſeized her hand, and eagerly preſſing it, ſaid, " Oh madam! you have filled me with " a thouſand alarming apprehenſions; I " tremble to think of the conſequences " with which Mr. Sutton's raſh and un- " juſt proceedings againſt Mr. Fenton " may be attended.——Give me leave, " therefore, to ſend Thomas inſtantly to " Mr. Plumtree's, to intreat his return " hither, and to order him to make the " beſt enquiries after Mr. Fenton, if he " is not at home."

MRS. Lawſon ſo thoroughly approved of her niece's requeſt, that ſhe ſpeedily complied with it, by diſpatching Thomas to make the deſired ſearch after her lover.

DURING the above embarraſſing ſcene at Mr. Lawſon's, the occurrences in the

the Plumtree-family were not more agreeable.

MITCHELL, it has been ſaid, relapſed into a train of agonizing reflections, when his companion precipitately left him on the receipt of Harriot's note.

HE did not, however, remain long in his reverie undiſturbed.—The appearance of Mr. Plumtree with a dejection in his face which Charles had never obſerved before, rouſed him from his penſive attitude, and drew a heavy ſigh from him, but not a ſingle word; for he dreaded to aſk the cauſe of the increaſed melancholy which overſpread his features. But he ſoon found himſelf under a neceſſity of opening his lips; for Mr. Plumtree intreated to know with ſo much earneſtneſs, and with ſuch moving accents, whether he had determined to make him an happy or a miſerable parent, that he could no longer continue ſilent.

"YOU pierce me to the heart, ſir, "(ſaid he) you diſtreſs me beyond mea-

"ſure,

"ſure, by ſo cruel a queſtion. I cannot "bear to ſee the man by whom I have "been ſo kindly treated, ſo ſincerely be-"loved, and to whom I am indebted for "all that I poſſeſs—I cannot bear to ſee "him ſinking under a load of grief, "without endeavouring to remove it."—Then throwing his arms over his worthy benefactor's neck, he added, though his voice was ſo much weakened by his emotions that he could hardly articulate what he wanted to ſay, "Never, never ſhall "you be miſerable on my account!"

HAVING juſt been able to utter thoſe few words with great difficulty, he quitted the affecting poſture in which he delivered them, and clapping his handkerchief to his eyes wept aloud: ſo violent was the agitation which he felt on having reſolved to ſacrifice love to gratitude.

MR. Plumtree ſympathized ſo ſtrongly with his young friend on ſo very trying an occaſion, that he deeply ſorrowed to think on the peculiarity of his own circum-

cumſtances, which obliged him to put that friend's ſenſibility to ſo ſevere a teſt; but the tenderneſs of the father ſuperſeded all other conſiderations.

AFTER having affectionately embraced him, he ſaid, "My dear Charles, I want "words to expreſs the ſatisfaction which "your laſt words have given me; though "I cannot but own at the ſame time, "that it is ſomewhat abated, by the "pain which your heart muſt neceſſarily "feel, I know, from the violence offered "to it.—Time, however, will, I truſt, "wean you from a paſſion for the grati-"fication of which your hopes are all "cut off, and reconcile you to a ſtep, "which I ſhould not have urged you to "take, had not the life of a beloved "child depended upon your taking it, "according to all appearances.—You "are the firſt man whom ſhe ever ſo ten-"derly eſteemed as to be uneaſy about "his indifference to her. But fond as I "am of her, I do not think that I could

"have

" have deſired you to compaſſionate her " diſtreſsful ſituation, had there been a " probability of your being united to " Miſs Trett : but as the obſtinacy of " her father leaves you no room to ex- " pect his conſent to ſuch an union, I " am willing to flatter myſelf that I do " not act an unfriendly or an unkind part " in ſoliciting an alliance with you."

CHARLES could not any longer refrain from ſpeaking. As ſoon as the laſt word was pronounced by Mr. Plumtree, his feelings occaſioned by the whole ſpeech prompted him to ſay, " You have al- " ways proved yourſelf a true friend to " me, ſir, and I am under infinite ob- " ligations to you."

" TALK not of obligations, (inter- " rupted he) my dear Mitchell ; I am " now the obliged perſon, and ſhall ever " think myſelf conſiderably in your debt. " —But the pleaſure which you have " given me by your grateful determina- " tion, will be doubled by being com-

" municated

" municated to the amiable girl, on " whoſe account I have ſuffered more " anxiety than I can poſſibly expreſs.— " I will therefore haſte to relieve her " from a ſtate of the moſt tormenting " ſuſpence, ſincerely hoping that you " will have no reaſon to repent of the " conceſſion which you have generouſly, " I will add nobly, made in her favour."

Mr. Plumtree then went, after having again affectionately embraced his future ſon-in-law, to impart the pleaſure which he had received to his deſpairing daughter, on whoſe ſpirits it had ſo inſtantaneous an effect, that ſhe appeared quite a new creature. In the warmeſt terms, but in the moſt delicate manner, ſhe poured forth her dutiful acknowledgements to her father, for having procured her an happineſs for which ſhe had not dared to hope; and fervently prayed to heaven that ſhe might live to win the heart as well as to receive the hand of Mr. Mitchell.

JUST as Charles was going up to reſt, the note already mentioned from Groſvenor-ſtreet was delivered to him. He was ſtruck with the ſuperſcription, and ſtarted as if he had felt the electrical ſhock; but the contents of it diſturbed his mind to ſuch a degree, that he was almoſt bereft of his ſenſes. He had taken leave of the family, and had no inclination to return to them: he therefore proceeded to his chamber, and ſpent a ſleepleſs night in all the miſery of thinking. He repented of what he, in the fullneſs of his grateful heart, had ſaid to Mr. Plumtree; reproached himſelf bitterly for having ſo haſtily given up his Lizzy, without making a ſingle effort to learn from *her* own lips, whether no methods could be concerted between them for the promotion of their mutual felicity; and, amidſt the diſtraction of his ideas, wiſhed a thouſand times that he had never entered a houſe which had proved ſo fatal to his peace.

WHEN morning came and reminded

him of the buſineſs of the day, he roſe; but never had he quitted his pillow ſo harraſſed by a train of tormenting reflections. Totally unable to know how to extricate himſelf from the embarraſſment into which his gratitude had hurried him with honour; he lingered ſo long in his apartment, fluctuating between a number of thwarting ſuggeſtions, that he was ſurpriſed in the midſt of his conflict by Mr. Plumtree, who, afraid from his not appearing at his uſual hour, that he was not well, as he was always an early riſer when not indiſpoſed, could not help going himſelf to enquire after his health.

Mr. Plumtree, not imagining that Charles was ſtirring, only called at the door to aſk him if he was out of order, as it was above an hour later than his uſual time of riſing; he was, therefore, not a little ſurpriſed to ſee the door immediately opened by him, and to find him dreſſed as he had left him the preceding evening.

"My

"My dear Charles, (ſaid the worthy "man) how comes it that I ſee you thus? "You look as if you had not pulled off "your cloaths ſince I wiſhed you a good "night; you look alſo as if you had en-"joyed no reſt."

"My looks then, ſir, (replied Charles, "ſighing) are not deceitful, for I have "neither been undreſſed nor aſleep ſince "I took leave of you for the evening."

"You both amaze me, and fill me "with concern.—What, for God's ſake, "happened after our parting, to occaſion "ſuch a diſturbance in your mind?"

A DEEPER ſigh was all his reply.

MORE ſurpriſed at his ſilence than he had been at his appearance, Mr. Plumtree preſſed him to ſay what had occaſioned ſo unhappy a change in ſo ſhort a time, with greater earneſtneſs in his manner, and a ſtronger expreſſion of wonder in his countenance.

CHARLES, ſtill unable to ſpeak, put the note which he had received from Miſs

Trett into his hand, and, having raiſed his eyes to heaven, marked every turn of his features very attentively while he read it.

"WELL, Charles," (ſaid Mr. Plumtree, when he had finiſhed the peruſal of it) "how have you determined to act in "ſo unlucky a dilemma?" looking fixedly at him.

"OH ſir! what a diſtracting queſtion "is that! How, how can I form a reſo-"lution in ſuch embarraſſing circum-"ſtances!"

"YOU *muſt* reſolve ſoon, (replied Mr. "Plumtree) that you may be prepared "for the reception of Sir Timothy, with "a revival of his impreſſions in your fa-"vour."

THEY were, then, both of them for ſome moments ſilent.

AT laſt, Charles, eagerly preſſing his good friend's hand, ſaid, "Do you, ſir, "determine for me."

THE entrance of a ſervant, at that inſtant, ſent by Mrs. Plumtree to let them know that breakfaſt waited for them, relieved them both from their embarraſſments, for a while, by preventing the continuance of their converſation; and when they came down into the parlour, they both, as if by mutual agreement, endeavoured by their behaviour not to make any diſcovery of the ſubject on which they had been talking, and from which they were not ſorry to be ſummoned.

As the day advanced, Mr. Plumtree and Charles both wondered that Sir Timothy did not make his appearance. They wondered at his delay, and they expected him with impatience, each of them preferring certainty to ſuſpence.

As the day grew to a cloſe, Mitchell's ſurpriſe grew to ſuch a height, that he could not refrain from diſpatching a meſſenger to his Lizzy, to know whether ſhe had not been miſtaken in her obſerva-

tions upon her father's carriage to her; and to know, if thoſe obſervations were not too haſtily made, what had prevented his viſit to Mr. Plumtree. The meſſenger whom he employed was as expeditious as he was deſired to be; but his return afforded Charles no ſatisfaction, for he was only told at the houſe, that Sir Timothy and Miſs Trett had left London very early in the morning.

THE ſudden departure of Sir Timothy and his daughter muſt now be accounted for.

MISS Trett in about half an hour after the ſending away her note to Mr. Mitchell, felt herſelf ſeized with an headach, an indiſpoſition with which ſhe was frequently afflicted. It was but a ſlight one; it rendered her, however, deſirous to retire to her chamber before ſupper, having often experienced the efficacy of repoſe upon ſuch occaſions.

WHILE Sir Timothy and Lady Trett were chatting after the cloth was removed,

a letter

a letter was delivered into the hands of the former. It came by expreſs from Mrs. Martin, a ſiſter of his firſt wife's in Hertfordſhire, who having been given over by the phyſician, and being juſt able to hold her pen, earneſtly begged to ſee him and her dear niece before ſhe died. With difficulty ſhe wrote thoſe few words, but ſhe could not be prevailed on not to ſend them written by herſelf.

Sir Timothy had really a great regard for his ſiſter, and ſhe well deſerved it, for ſhe was a woman of an exemplary character; but without *that*, the expectations from her, which were conſiderable, would have been ſufficient to accelerate his compliance with the contents of her ſhort, but intereſting epiſtle. He accordingly gave immediate orders to the proper domeſtics to have every thing ready for his early departure the next morning.

As Lizzy went up to her chamber indiſpoſed, Sir Timothy deſired that ſhe might not be diſturbed till it became abſo-

lutely neceſſary to wake her, that ſhe might have time to prepare herſelf to accompany him.

Lizzy was ſo much grieved when ſhe heard the cauſe of her being waked ſo much earlier than uſual, that the journey to Hertfordſhire engaged all her attention: ſhe thought only about the preparations for it, and gave her father no reaſon to accuſe her of tardineſs. In the midſt of her hurry, however, ſhe could not help ſighing a wiſh that ſhe could inform her lover of ſo unexpected an event; but as ſhe had no opportunity to employ her pen for that purpoſe, ſhe got into the poſt-chaiſe, contenting herſelf with the hopes of conveying a few lines to him, after her arrival at her aunt's houſe: her head was free from pain, but her heart was far from being at eaſe.

Till they had travelled about half way, they travelled with equal ſafety and rapidity. The ſudden ſtarting of one of the hind wheels, then, not only checked

their

their career, but gave ſuch a ſhock to the carriage, that poor Lizzy's forehead was cut by the glaſs which ſurrounded her: ſhe ſcreamed and fainted.

Sir Timothy received no injury from the ſhock which had proved ſo unfortunate to his daughter, but was very much affected by her condition; the more ſo, as he was totally at a loſs to know by what means to recover her from her ſwoon.

Luckily for him, when he had for a little while lamented his diſtreſsful ſituation, a gentleman and lady appeared in their chariot, coming out of a lane near the place where the diſaſter had happened.

The gentleman immediately quitted his ſeat, and flew to give Sir Timothy all the aſſiſtance in his power; and by the application of ſome ſalts which he brought with him, ſoon reſtored Lizzy to the uſe of her ſenſes. He then begged Sir Timothy to aſſiſt him in conveying her to

his carriage, in which there was a lady, he told him, who would feel the greateſt pleaſure to be conceived, in contributing to her entire recovery.

Sir Timothy, charmed with the gentleman's politeneſs and benevolence, quitted the chaiſe, and agreeably to his requeſt, helped to remove his daughter to a more agreeable vehicle, with an handkerchief tied over her forehead.

When Lizzy was ſafely placed in a more eligible ſeat, the gentleman ſaid to Sir Timothy, "Come, ſir, as you have "not, apparently, received any harm "from the accident which has retarded "your journey, let us walk on and fol-"low the ladies. I live within half a "mile of this place: my wife and I have "been to pay a viſit to a neighbour, and "I am very glad that we came by ſo op-"portunely. You ſhall find a hearty "welcome at my houſe, and make it "your own till you find yourſelf inclined

"to

" to leave it. Order your ſervants to " bring the chaiſe after us in the beſt " manner they can, and I will undertake " to get it ſoon repaired for you."

SIR Timothy having acted conformably to the gentleman's intreaties, they walked on; the former acquainting the latter with every thing relating to himſelf, neceſſary to be known at that time, and frequently repeating his acknowledgements for the civilities which he received from him.

" SIR Timothy," (ſaid Mr. Mitchell, for that was the name of the gentleman, who was indeed the father of Lizzy's lover, ſtopping him in the middle of a complimentary ſpeech) " I don't want " to be ſo violently thanked for doing " what every man ought to do.—It is " our duty to ſuccour thoſe who ſtand in " need of our aſſiſtance, in any ſhape, to " the utmoſt of our abilities."

WHILE Mr. Mitchell was giving the ſtrongeſt

ſtrongeſt proofs of his philanthropy, as he walked homewards by the ſide of Sir Timothy, Mrs. Mitchell was giving not leſs ſtriking proofs of her humanity in her ride; for ſhe behaved to Miſs Trett with the moſt amiable attention, expreſſed the greateſt concern at the accident ſhe had met with, and with a kind of maternal affection conſoled her all the way, by aſſuring her, that ſhe ſhould want no accommodations which her houſe afforded, till ſhe and the gentleman, whom ſhe ſuppoſed to be her father, were enabled to purſue their journey.—"And as for the "wounds which you have received, I'll ſoon "undertake to cure them." Lizzy, being of a mild, tender diſpoſition, was melted at the very humane, polite, and affectionate behaviour of Mrs. Mitchell,—(how much more would ſhe have been affected, had ſhe known her to be the mother of her Charles!)—and ſaid to her, "I want "words, madam, to expreſs my ſenſe of "your

" your extreme goodneſs to me; but I " hope you will believe that I *am* tho- " roughly ſenſible of it, and that I feel " very grateful ſenſations upon the oc- " caſion."

MRS. Mitchell was ſo well pleaſed with the manners of her new companion, and ſo prejudiced in favour of her looks, notwithſtanding the diſguiſe on the upper part of her face, that ſhe diſcovered no ſmall deſire to know to whom ſhe had the pleaſure of being ſo ſerviceable; and Lizzy immediately, in terms which ſerved to ſtrengthen the prepoſſeſſion ſhe had excited, ſatisfied her curioſity.

MR. Mitchell having ordered his coachman to walk his horſes, was ready to hand the daughter of his new gueſt out of the chariot when it ſtopped; and while he led her into the houſe, Sir Timothy followed with Mrs. Mitchell.

THE next morning Sir Timothy took leave of his hoſpitable friends, and proceeded

ceeded on his journey to Mrs. Martin; but at the earneſt intreaties of thoſe friends left Lizzy with them, who was, indeed, not quite well enough to attend him, and who had ſtrong inducements to remain at Myrtle-grove.

Lizzy was fortunate enough to make herſelf more and more agreeable every day, both to the father and the mother of her lover; and while ſhe received the moſt pleaſing marks of their eſteem for her, did not regret her being detained from the ſight of an aunt, whom ſhe had only once ſeen when ſhe was very young, and for whom her affectionate feelings could not be very forcible.

In about a week afterwards, Mr. Mitchell being thoroughly ſatisfied with his ſon's choice, and convinced that he could not have ſingled out a perſon better qualified in every reſpect, to make him happy in the marriage-ſtate, wrote the following letter to him.

" To Mr. CHARLES MITCHELL.

" Dear Charles,

" IF you are not deeply engaged in " buſineſs, which will render your ab- " ſence from London imprudent, I ſhould " be very glad to ſee you down here; " but I do not deſire you to neglect mat- " ters of conſequence, to give me the plea- " ſure of your company. Your ſtaying " with us, however, a few days, will " not, I hope, occaſion any great inter- " ruption to your affairs. Your mother " thinks upon this ſubject exactly as I " do; and we both would have you be- " lieve, that we ſhall always be not only " your moſt

" Affectionate parents, but

" Your faithfulleſt friends.

" Adieu—

" T. MITCHELL."

THE arrival of this letter, penned with all the affection, without the formality

of

of a father, threw Charles into ſome embarraſſment, becauſe he had a little before heard, (having made frequent enquiries in Groſvenor-ſtreet) that Sir Timothy was expected to be in town the following day. By that intelligence, therefore, he was diſtreſſed, and by that only; for Mr. Plumtree pitying both *his* ſituation and the ſituation of his Maria, had ſent the latter into the country to ſtay with a couſin of Mrs. Plumtree's. His ardent deſire to have an interview with the miſtreſs of his heart, of whoſe converſation he had been ſo long deprived, powerfully urged him to write an anſwer to his father's moſt friendly epiſtle, in order to apologize for not complying with the contents of it, and his filial love rendered him extremely unwilling to accept of the kind invitation couched in ſuch affectionate terms. After having remained for a while ſuſpended between oppoſite attractions, he determined to ſet out immediately to the Grove,

and

and to ſolicit the conſent of his parents to his union with Miſs Trett, as he now flattered himſelf that Sir Timothy's approbation was certain.

When Mr. Mitchell had written his letter to his ſon, he read it to his wife and to Miſs Trett; and then, addreſſing himſelf to the latter, ſaid, "I have invited my ſon to come down to us, without making him acquainted with the cauſe of my invitation, becauſe I know, by experience, how much the enjoyment of every pleaſure in this world is heightened by its being unexpected. Charles, if I am not miſtaken in him, will immediately leave London, unleſs buſineſs of importance which cannot be poſtponed, renders his preſence at home abſolutely neceſſary; and I pleaſe myſelf not a little by thinking how agreeably I ſhall ſurpriſe him when I introduce *you* to him."

Mrs.

Mrs. Mitchell, whoſe ſentiments were ſeldom different from thoſe of her huſband's, very much approved of the method which he had taken to increaſe her ſon's ſatisfaction upon his arrival at the Grove; and Lizzy ſaid, with an innocent bluſh upon her cheeks, "That ſhe was "uncommonly happy in having made a "favourable impreſſion on the parents of "him who was ſo high in her eſteem."

Mr. Mitchell having ſeen his ſon at a diſtance riding towards the Grove, on the next day, while he was admiring, from an eminence in his garden, a very fine proſpect, beautifully enlivened in a particular manner by the ſetting-ſun, went to the houſe directly, to prepare Miſs Trett for the interview which he had, from the amiable benevolence of his diſpoſition, projected between *her* and his ſon.

Charles, when he came into the parlour, was received by his father and mother as he expected to be: his ſpeedy com-

compliance with the letter of invitation, was properly acknowledged, and no mark of parental affection was wanting to make him ſatisfied with his reception.

When they had ſpent ſome time in domeſtic converſation, Mr. Mitchell, with a placid countenance, deſired his ſon to follow him into his cloſet.

"My dear Charles, you have given "your mother and me a great deal of "pleaſure, by coming to us ſo ſoon after "the receipt of the letter which I diſ-"patched to you yeſterday; and I will "now tell you what occaſioned my de-"ſiring your company juſt at this time."

"At any time, ſir, I ſhall be ready "to prove my obedience to ſo good a "father."

"You make me very happy by ſaying "ſo; and I ſhall, therefore, impart what "I have to communicate with the leſs "reluctance."

Charles was ſomewhat alarmed at the ſound of the laſt word, not having

imagined from the manner in which he was cloſetted by his father, that he was going to hear any thing diſagreeable to him; he ſaid nothing, but he liſtened with no ſmall emotion.

"I HAVE, for ſome time (continued "Mr. Mitchell) wiſhed to ſee you hap- "pily ſettled in the marriage-ſtate, and I "have had the pleaſure of meeting with "a young lady who ſeems really poſſeſſed "of every qualification to render that "ſtate eligible. She is very agreeable in "her perſon, ſhe is ſenſible, and ſhe is "good-natured. But as I would not, in "an affair of ſo much conſequence, offer "any violence to your inclination, my "only requeſt is, that you would let me "introduce you to her; for I am almoſt "aſſured that you will be prejudiced in "her favour at firſt ſight, and feel that "prejudice increaſe upon a farther ac- "quaintance with her: there is not, I "will venture to ſay, a more amiable "girl in the county; and I am, there-

"fore,

" fore, the more deſirous of being related
" to her.—You ſeem to be embarraſſed
" by what I have ſaid, Charles, and ap-
" pear as dejected as if my requeſt had
" given you the greateſt uneaſineſs.——
" Speak, my ſon—keep not your diſquiet-
" udes to yourſelf, but freely let me know
" what paſſes in your mind. On this
" occaſion I have, I think, a right to de-
" mand an explicit anſwer, as a father,
" but I chuſe rather to ſollicit a reply as
" a friend.—Believe me, Charles, you
" will never in your tranſactions with the
" world, find one who has more ſincerely
" your intereſt at heart, and who will
" do more to promote it."

CHARLES was melted by the affectionate concluſion of his father's ſpeech, and felt the uneaſineſs which he received from the former part of it, doubled. He neither knew how to deny a requeſt ſo very handſomely urged, nor how to bring himſelf to grant it: one cannot, therefore, ſup-

poſe that in ſuch a ſituation he could immediately expreſs his feelings by words. He was, indeed, ſo long ſilent, that Mr. Mitchell grew eager to carry his deſign into execution: he, therefore, renewed his intreaties with equal friendlineſs but with more impatience.

CHARLES juſtly thinking that a longer ſilence would be inexcuſable, as his father had diſcovered ſo little of the tyrannical parent in his behaviour to him, after having fetched a ſigh which ſeemed to affect his whole frame, thus replied, "It gives "me great pain, ſir, after the many "proofs I have received of your paternal "affection, to refuſe your requeſt, but "—I am engaged—"

"How, Charles, engaged without in-"forming your parents who have always "encouraged you to deal openly with "them, of your being ſo?"

"SUCH a rebuke I had, indeed, rea-"ſon to expect, ſir; but I hope, neverthe-

"leſs,

" queſt, I will not marry her, (ſuppoſ-
" ing the continuance of her father's pre-
" ſent way of thinking) without your
" approbation. May I not, flatter my-
" ſelf, that you will, in return, permit
" me to refuſe my hand, when I cannot
" give it with the concurrence of my
" heart?"

Mr. Mitchell, highly pleaſed with the dutiful expreſſions at the beginning of his ſon's laſt ſpeech, readily anſwered the queſtion at the end of it, much to his ſatisfaction. He then quitted the cloſet; and Charles followed him, not with unhappy ſenſations, but with a ſort of a curioſity which occaſioned a little flutter in his breaſt.

When they returned to the parlour, Mr. Mitchell left Charles with his mother, telling him, that he would in a very ſhort time introduce the Lady of whom he had been ſpeaking. As ſoon as his father was gone out of the room, he could not help

aſk-

aſking her who the lady was? She only replied with a ſmile, "that he would ſoon "not only ſee her, but find a great deal "of pleaſure in her company."

By that ſpeech Charles's curioſity was increaſed, and he was alſo, inſenſibly prompted to wiſh for the gratification of it.

He was not long in a ſtate of ſuſpence.

To deſcribe the looks of Charles, when his father appeared with Miſs Trett's hand in his, would require deſcriptive powers to which I have no pretenſions. I ſhall only ſay, therefore, that ſurpriſe, joy, tenderneſs, and gratitude were all, alternately, and with equal ſtrength, expreſſed in them; that the mixed emotions which he felt rooted him to the floor like a ſtatue; and that the violence of thoſe emotions rendered him utterly unable to ſpeak.

Lizzy was not in a leſs agitated condition. Prepared as ſhe had been for the ſight of her lover, the ſight of him, after

ſo

ſo long an abſence, during which ſhe had endured ſuch a variety of diſquieting ſenſations, threw her whole frame into diſorder. Overwhelmed at once by her gratitude, her tenderneſs, and her joy, ſhe would have fainted away, had not Mrs. Mitchell, hurried to her aſſiſtance.--At that inſtant too, Charles, rouſed from his attitude of ſtupefaction, flew to her ſuccour.

SHE ſoon recovered, but the converſation which her recovery occaſioned, muſt be reſerved for the next volume.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.